

THE MICHIGAN FARMER,

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Relating to the Farm, the Garden, and the Household.

NEW SERIES.

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The Michigan Farmer,

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The Farm.

An Imported Thoroughbred in Calhoun County.

We are moving forward in Michigan. Last week we chronicled the importation of a very fine bull; this week we have the pleasure of announcing the introduction of an imported thoroughbred horse into Calhoun county, by Dr. A. L. Hayes of Marshall. In his letter to us, Dr. Hayes gives the following history of his importation and purchase:

MARSHALL, Mich., Feb. 23d, 1860.

FRIEND JOHNSTONE. Dear Sir,—Knowing you take a great interest in the improvement of stock in this State, particularly of thoroughbred horses, I take pleasure in informing you that I have brought to this place a thoroughbred stallion just from England.

Col. McGuire of New Orleans, a wealthy gentleman who had a large rancho in Texas, sent his brother to England to purchase the best three years old stallion he could find, and he selected this colt, *Admiration*.

He is a beautiful bay, of immense bone and muscle, and in every respect the most perfect animal I ever saw. Col. McGuire died while the colt was on his passage, which induced his sale. I, being in New Orleans at the time, could not resist the opportunity to purchase so fine an animal. To prevent all cavil about his identity, I have the honor to refer to the Hon. Chas. Dickey of Marshall, ex-President of the State Agricultural Society, Messrs. Seely and Butterworth of Coldwater, Mr. E. Gould of Eaton Rapids, and Mr. John Button of Hastings, all of whom were in New Orleans at the time he was landed from the ship Joe Clark in January last. As a necessary consequence, after so long a journey from England to New Orleans and from there here, he is somewhat jaded, but is now rapidly improving.

Yours truly,

A. L. HAYES.

We feel very certain that in making this purchase, Dr. Hayes would be guided by his experience as to what kind of a horse is wanted for the improvement of the stock of the State. We have not yet received the exact pedigree of "*Admiration*," but from a description that accompanies the letter, we learn he is four years old, a rich bay in color, and of immense bone and muscle. He was bred by a Mr. Johnson of Driffield Farm, near Driffield, Yorkshire, England. He is bred from Polonaise, a mare that won four matches as a three years old, one of them being for 1,000 pounds (\$5,000) against *Elthron*; and another for half that amount, with *Glaucia*, the winner of the Cambridgeshire stakes at New Market. Sir Nestor, the sire of *Admiration*, is own brother to *Tadmor*, a winner of the Gratwicke stakes, and is by *Ion*, the sire of *Wild Dayrell*, *The Kapper*, *Pellon*, and *Dagobert*, all horses of reputation in the stud, as winners and stockgetters. *Ion* was by *Cain*, the sire of *Albion*, a horse imported into Kentucky, and well known at the South as the sire of some first class racers. Through the dam of Sir Nestor, *Palmyra*, the famous Sultan blood is inherited in a close degree by *Admiration*. *Palmyra* being a daughter of *Sultan*, and thus half sister to *Glencoe*, and *Bay Middleton*. The dam of *Palmyra* was *Hester* by the *Camel*, sire of the celebrated *Touchstone*. *Hester* was out of *Monimia* by *Muley*, he by *Orville*, by *Beninborough* by *King Fergus*, &c.

Polonaise, the dam of *Admiration*, is by the *Provost*, and out of *Siberia* by *Brutan dorf*; she again by *Blucher* out of *Opal* by the great *Sir Peter*, by the equally celebrated *High Flyer*, by *King Herod*.

The strains of blood thus united in this horse of Dr. Hayes, it will be seen combine some of the stoutest and most prominent of the great English stock horses, and places *Admiration* in connection with *Glencoe*, with *Albion*, and others of the best importations ever made into this country.

We shall probably have something more to say of this horse, after we have had an opportunity of seeing him.

Since the above was written, a letter from Wm. R. Schuyler, Esq., of Marshall, gives the following description of "*Admiration*."

"*Admiration* is a rich bay 16 hands high, and coming four years old. His pedigree shows an unbroken descent from the thoroughbred English race horse, from whose cross have sprung the most valuable stock of horses for all practical purposes, independent of slow heavy draft. His figure is very fine; an unexceptionable head, a lofty, beautiful neck, fine flowing black mane and tail, deep chest, long body, a slanting well placed shoulder, a perfect muscular development. His kind, playful temper, graceful and easy carriage give unquestionable evidence of a thoroughbred horse. It being now generally conceded by intelligent breeders, that we must look to the thoroughbred horse alone under judicious crossing and breeding, for those essential qualities, power, endurance, speed and symmetry of form, the general introduction of such a class of stock horses among us becomes a matter of no small interest to every horse breeder in Michigan. We can not reasonably expect any marked improvement in our breeds of horses without expense, care and a systematic course of management. Not only must thoroughbred stock horses be obtained, but judicious selections be made among our mares, and the most careful attention be given to the raising of their colts, and the object will most certainly be attained. It is to be hoped then for the farmers and breeders' own sake that the men who are willing to expend their time and money in bringing valuable thoroughbred stock horses into the State, may receive that liberal patronage and encouragement they so richly deserve."

Large and Small Animals—A Query.

MR. EDITOR.—I had thought it to be an established rule, that domestic animals consumed a quantity of food, in proportion to their size. And that a given quantity of feed would produce the same amount of flesh and bone, whether consumed by large or small animals. This theory, reasonable in itself, we are told has been established by a series of carefully

conducted experiments, made by men of great practical knowledge.

But it seems a writer in the *Country Gentleman*, (quoted in the last FARMER,) almost demolishes this theory, and advances a different one, supported also by experiments.—From this, we learn one fact at least,—that Doctors are not the only class of men that disagree. Mr. Johnson says, a steer weighing 1,000 lbs. requires as much feed as one weighing 1,500 lbs. And that a sheep of 85 or 90 lbs. weight requires as much as one of 130 or 140 lbs.

This opinion, not only appears paradoxical; but it is not sustained by my limited experience in stock feeding.

Here now, is open for discussion,—a question of greater importance than the long disputed Chess question; and I hope our Michigan stock breeders will take up the subject and give us the results of their experience.

Adopting the first mentioned theory, I wish to have them solve this difficulty. If it costs as much to raise and fatten an ox of 2,000 lbs. as a pair of 1,000 lbs. each, why is the large one the more profitable. It may be said that the large one is worth more than the two small ones, because there will be less waste, consequently a greater net weight when butchered. But that would seem hardly sufficient to justify the extravagant prices paid for some of our large breeds of cattle.

With sheep, the difference in the profits, between large and small appears to be still less—especially if wool growing be the principal object.

Let us suppose a flock of 50 sheep weighing 130 lbs. each; at 90¢ lbs. each, it would take 72 to make up the same aggregate weight. Estimating the wool from the 50 at 4 lbs. each, or 200 lbs.—the 72 would yield the same amount at a fraction over 2½ lbs. each. Perhaps but few flocks in Michigan would average as low as that. Allowing the 72 to average 3 lbs. each I think a fair estimate, and the amount is 16 lbs. more than that of the 50.

Moreover, small fleeces are more saleable than large ones, else, why the practice of dividing fleeces when doing them up? S. K.

Tipton, Feb. 24.

Preamble and Resolutions adopted by the Plymouth Farmers' Club, on the awarding of Premiums to Fast Horses at our State Fairs.

Whereas, Premiums are annually awarded by our State Agricultural Society to horses, which, in competing for them, are put to a trial of their speed, and, often, in such a manner as to produce, among the competitors, as well as the spectators, much of the feeling and excitement of the race course, while it is believed that the principle upon which these premiums are offered, and competed for is calculated to encourage the propagation of a class of stock not adapted to the general necessities of the people of the State, but rather injurious to them; and while it is also feared that the Society is thereby becoming associated with the practice which, if persevered in, must, ultimately, produce the alienation of the more staid and conscientious portion of its members; therefore,

Resolved, That, in the estimation of this association, no premiums for horses should be offered, calculated to bring the question of their speed prominently before the committee, or the public, but that committees should be carefully instructed to consider this qualification only in combination with other important qualities, such as size, color, beauty, of form and action, and endurance; and to so conduct their trials as to prevent, as far as possible, any direct trials of speed between competing animals.

Resolved, That the more effectually to secure attention to this subject, the committees in charge should be composed of persons who can be relied on to discourage, as far as possible, any trials of speed, directly or indirectly, for mere sporting purposes.

Resolved, That this Society is not unaware of the reason sometimes urged for the indulgence of this practice, that it furnishes an attraction which brings in many persons who would not, otherwise, contribute to the funds of the Society; but, that it is our deliberate opinion that many better members are driven away, from conscientious scruples, while the mania thus induced for fast horses, is gradually, but certainly, working a grave and positive injury to the general horse stock of the country, by directing the attention of breeders to this one object, to the neglect, and, too often, to the sacrifice of other, and more really valuable qualities.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed

to forward the above preamble and resolutions to the MICHIGAN FARMER for publication.

Adopted Feb. 25th, 1860.

T. T. LYON, Secretary.

What Constitutes Legal Unsoundness in Horses.

A *Knee-sprung* horse can hardly be said to be unsound. He may be a very fast horse, and can endure with ease the labor of any common, ordinary horse, although there is an alteration of structure which unfits him for the race-course. This would not be likely to produce disease or lameness; he would be more likely to grow better than worse, if used for common purposes. But, if so bad as to produce stumbling and falling, he would be unsound and a warranty should be taken against such defects.

Capped Hocks cannot be considered unsoundness, if produced by an uneven stable floor, or by kicking; but, if produced by a sprain, and a permanent thickening and enlargement of the membranes, there would be unsoundness. A special warranty should be required in such cases.

Contraction of the Hoof is a considerable deviation from the natural form of the foot, but does not necessarily constitute unsoundness. It requires, however, a most careful examination by the purchaser, to ascertain that there is no fever or ossification of the cartilage; that the frog is not diseased; that the animal is not tender footed, or lame. Unless some of these symptoms are indicated, he must not be pronounced unsound. A special warranty should be required, where the feet are contracted.

Corns manifestly constitute unsoundness. Although few men lay much stress on this malady, still much inconvenience, and many times serious difficulties, must be encountered by them, as they are seldom thoroughly cured. Many horses are almost constantly lame with corns, through a scrofulous habit of the system. A warranty against such animals would be safe.

Trembling Knees—This cannot be considered unsoundness; yet it is precursory symptom of *knee sprung*. Trembling of the knees, after a smart exercise, indicates weakness, and should be regarded as objectionable.

A *Cough* constitutes unsoundness, however slight or of short standing. If a horse is noticed to cough before the purchase, or immediately afterward, he is diseased; but if warranted sound, and the cough is not discovered till one or two days afterward, he is not returnable; for a few hours is sufficient to contract a cough, by taking cold while standing in a damp, musty stable, or by eating different feed, musty hay, &c.

Roaring, Wheezing or Whistling, is unsoundness, being the result of alteration of structure, or disease in the air passages.—Although there have been decisions to the contrary, courts and jurors are often at loss, for the want of intelligent witnesses; and if a veterinary surgeon is called to the stand, not having seen the animal, he is liable to be mistaken from misrepresentation. *Broken Wind* is still more decidedly unsoundness.

Crib Biting.—A difference of opinion exists as to this being unsoundness, and courts have given opposite decisions in respect to it. There are cribbers that can scarcely be said to be unsound, as they are not perceptibly injured, and it does not interfere with their condition or endurance. Others inhale and swallow a great amount of wind; they bloat and are subject to colic, which interferes with their health and strength; this would constitute unsoundness. A warranty should always be taken against injury from cribbing; then if he breaks his teeth or injures himself, recompense may be had.

Curb constitutes unsoundness, as long as it lasts, and perhaps while the swelling remains, although no inflammation exists, for a horse that has once thrown out a curb, is liable to do so again on the slightest exertion. A horse, however, should not be returned, if he sprang a curb five minutes after purchase, for it is done in a moment, and does not indicate any previous unsoundness.

Two of the Best English Horses.

We take from an English paper the following descriptions of those two famous horses, *Newminster* and *Leamington*, the former the most celebrated stallion of the day, and the latter equally famous as a racer, though only just put to the stud. "On entering the enclosed yard of the old stud-house, the visitor is informed that he stands on ground lately trodden by *The Flying Dutchman*, and now daily trampled by his successor and superior, *Newminster*. Never in the course of our experience did we see a horse so changed from the artificial racer in training to the natural sire in the stud. During his career on the turf his great length gave him a tucked up and almost weak appearance; during his *otium cum* in the stud his accumulation of flesh has given him that of a handsome bay Suffolk punch. He is, in fact, a large horse in a little compass, and "far below his worth are all the praises that we now bestow." In shape, *Newminster* is almost faultless, and on looking at his robust frame on short legs, we were reminded of his dam *Beeswing* (to whom he bears a strong resemblance), and of the remark that the late Sam Chiffney made upon her at Ascot, "you cannot put your hand on a wrong place." He proved himself to inherit his mother's stoutness by winning the *St. Leger*, and beating the beautiful *Aphrodite*, in one of the most truly ran races upon record, the pace made by *Deceitful* having been so severe as to shut up the winner of the *One Thousand* at the distance, and to leave *Newminster* alone in his glory. The horse's condition did his trainer justice. The Royal Paddocks, at Hampton Court, are sending Stamp, The Arrow, Lady Palmerston, and two other mares to him—no mean compliment, whilst they have *Orlando* on the premises. His subscription is full to overflowing. He was, in 1856 (in which year he joined the stud), offered to the Russian Government for £3,000; they have lately made a bid of £4,000 at the expiration of this season, but although this is equivalent to £6,000 now, it has been "declined with thanks."

"*Leamington* is shaded by "the old ash-tree," in what was *Chanticleer's* box, and stands remarkably well up in his shoulder; his size (he is 16 hands high), his great length, and fine propelling power, will be certain to recommend him. What has been done with him since last he ran in public, we pretend not to imagine; for he has not yet filled out, or "let down" at all. On his arrival at the stud in October, he was thin and completely stumped up, nor will he recover for some time from the effects of an attempt to train him on. We expect to see him next year a magnificent horse, and trust that his double victory on the Roodee, and the surprise he gave to his stable by winning the *Goodwood Stakes* at nearly the top weight, will find the company plenty of customers for his services at 20 guineas."

Prize Animals.

In the awards of the three great National Societies to Shorthorn cows there has been an important change made. The three Societies are the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Highland Society of Scotland, and the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland. The cows to which the first premiums were originally given had never had a calf, and were not likely to produce any, the question being brought up before the councils, a committee was appointed to examine and re-award the premiums, and a rule has been adopted by the Highland Society requiring that a cow to be capable of competing must have had a calf before she can be exhibited.

Utility of Fallows.

Many of the mineral elements of a soil are present in it in an insoluble form, and are only set free by the slow chemical re-actions constantly going on under the influence of air and water. Such is the case with the alkalies, potash and soda, and to a certain extent with the phosphates. Now although there is no soil which does not yield by analysis, quantities of all the mineral elements sufficient for many crops, yet by long continued and uninterrupted tillage the more soluble combinations of these elements may be all taken up, and the land will then require a certain time of repose in order that a store of more soluble matters may be formed. Hence the utility of fallows.

Rotation of Crops and Wheat Culture.

R. F. JOHNSTONE:—Sir—It is generally with much pleasure and profit that I read the experience and suggestions of our fellow farmers, and I thought I would give you a few thoughts of mine in one or two short articles. I do not presume to be an instructor, nor would I venture to assume that my system is the best for the farmers of this State; neither do I think that one particular rule or system is applicable to every farm. But, notwithstanding this, I may make some statements for others' benefit; for the interchange of thought, and the records of experience, when combined, form a common fund like a library, from which we can draw and cull according to our wants and circumstances. I wish to say something about the rotation of crops, a subject upon which much has been written, and yet but little understood and appreciated by the mass of our farmers.

My farm in the state of nature was mostly windfall plains; the soil a sandy loam, and when I first cleared it up, it produced wheat beautifully, and I was induced to believe, by those of more experience than myself, that land would bear to be sown to wheat every other year, and produce equally well for any length of time, without any returns. But what was the result of a few years' trial of the old fashioned mode of summer-fallowing—that is, plowing early and deep, and then in August to cross-plow and sow? The fact was, I had reduced my average yield at least one half; and add to this my chagrin to see my best wheat land thoroughly soded with blue grass, and June grass, tougher than a Yankee leather apron. This system of cultivation was every year calculated to make these grasses thrive and spread, until they had bid defiance to every thing else. In view of this state of things, I must tack ship or go ashore.

Here I commenced a new order of things in general, by dividing my plow land into seven parts, as near equal as I could, for the purpose of commencing a regular system of rotation, and raising the same kind of grain on the same ground only once in seven years, as follows: The first year, I break a clover sod for wheat, and after the wheat comes off, I take a crop of corn; I then sow to oats, or barley, and stock to clover—the two following years it is meadow, and the last year it is pastured. To recapitulate: first year it is fallow, the second is wheat, third is corn and potatoes, fourth is oats or barley, fifth and sixth is meadow, and seventh pasture.—So much for the system—now I speak of the manner of carrying it out and the results. The blue grass disappeared as if by magic, my land seems fully restored to its former vigor, for I can raise as much straw as I ever could, but for the wheat I am not so sure of now since the midge has made its appearance; (by the way, it is the midge and not the weevil as most farmers term it, for the former is a fly and the latter a bug, and as much different as a hog and a sheep.)

I break up my summer-fallow in June as deep as convenient with four middle-sized horses; it is then prepared for the seed with the cultivator; when this is done I put on all the manure I have, evenly spread on the top of the ground. The wheat is then sown and cultivated in, mixing the manure and seed in as close proximity as possible: the reason for this procedure is this,—to give the wheat as vigorous a start in its earliest stages as possible, so that by the time winter sets in, it has spread and occupied the whole ground, and so intertwined and rooted together as to form a turf, so strong as to preclude entirely the possibility of being thrown out by the frost.

I have heard many express their fears about their wheat getting too rank a growth in the fall, but I have long since had all my fears dissipated on that score, for I have many times had my wheat attain so rank a growth in the fall, that I could mow a heavy swath through it. Even then I do not feed it off, as is recommended by some farmers; but mine has always wintered the best, and I do not apprehend any danger from any cause, except the long continuance of an uncommon deep snow; for it is well known that when snow is so deep, or is packed so hard as to exclude the air, and continues long, it will kill any wheat.

And another important thing is gained, the wheat has done in the fall what it otherwise would have to do in the spring; it has a week or two the start; it comes forward and is filling before the midge comes out of the ground, which is about the fifteenth of June.

There is another point on which many differ in opinion. In times of drouth some say, "It is too dry to sow." Now, for that matter, I have often made the remark, that I never

saw land too dry to put in wheat. I lost my crop once by waiting for rain, and since then I have many times sown my wheat when there did not seem to be a particle of moisture in the earth, any more than in a bed of dry ashes; sometimes it has been long in coming up, and doubtless much of it perished; but it has invariably proved the best crop, and in all cases where the ground was too moist when sown, it was a partial failure.—More about the rotation another time.

Armada, Mich.

S. H. CORBIN.

Trials with Steamed Food.

MR. JOHNSTONE:—Dear Sir—Circumstances have not yet permitted us to make any direct comparisons between steamed and dry food, yet perhaps we have made some progress in that direction. We are so well pleased with the operation, that we steam all our feed for our entire stock of cattle and horses. Our horses keep in better condition, with less meal, and show no disposition to cough, as they usually do on dry food. We are keeping 36 head of cattle this winter. The aggregate live weight is estimated at 300-500 pounds, nearly equal to 34 cows of 900 pounds each. We are feeding them, per day, 340 lbs. hay, 125 lbs. straw, 180 lbs. ruta bagas, 68 lbs. mill-feed, and 50 lbs. meal, or an average to each cow of 10 lbs. hay, 3½ lbs. straw, 5½ lbs. roots, 2 lbs. mill-feed, and 1½ lbs. meal. We are milking 17 cows, from which we get about 80 quarts of milk per day, of improved flavor; and feeding four that will average about 1,300 pounds each. The milk we get from the cows and the flesh we are putting on those we are feeding, will more than equal the bran and meal we are feeding; and the balance of the feed we are using would keep that amount of stock in a fine growing condition through the winter.

Our operations show at least the practicability and advantage of cooking feed for cattle and horses; and the next inquiry with me is, how can we get up this thing so cheap and durable as to bring it within the reach of all who wish to use it? Experience has taught me some things on this point, but I shall leave this part for some inventive genius to perfect. Saving feed is one point, and saving labor in attending upon it, is another important point.

In answering the inquiry of your correspondent, how far steam can be carried and be effective, I can only say that I carry mine about 80 feet, which is about as far as it can be carried from a kettle with a wooden cover; it will not bear sufficient pressure to carry it much further without losing much from condensing. But Mr. Walbridge (from whom I got my suggestions) has a boiler, and he told me that he carried his nearly fifteen rods, with but very little loss.

At some future time I hope to make some comparisons between dry and steamed food, but experiments require time and patience to be worth anything.

Yours respectfully,

Kalamazoo, Feb. 22, 1860. M. HYDENBURE.

On Feeding Cattle.

The question is often asked me if I can make it pay to feed cattle during the winter. To answer that question fairly perhaps it would be well to qualify it somewhat. There are many things to be taken into consideration before a man can make it profitable to stall-feed cattle. He should have a convenient place to feed so as to save all the food fed out. I have fed cattle every winter for the past six years, and I can safely say that I have always made it pay. My course has been to stable them as soon as the weather began to be very cold, and let them remain most of the time in the stable, especially if cold or stormy weather. If a man has a warm barn-yard with suitable sheds attached, I think he can feed to advantage without stabling, by having sacks and boxes. I usually feed all the tame hay they need, and about 8 qts. of meal on an average a head per day. I prefer cutting up my hay and mixing the meal with it. I would not begin to feed over 4 or 6 qts. of meal at first.

If a man is able to distinguish the good points of cattle and estimate their growth, he need not fail to make it profitable to feed out most of his coarse grains upon the farm. By feeding the grain upon the farm the farmer receives a two fold profit. That is, if he uses good judgment in buying his cattle in the fall. He will usually get a fair market price for his grain, and the manure made from his grain is of a better quality than any other, and is just the kind that is needed upon the farm. As regards feeding stock upon the farm it should be made a sort of collateral business to the other farm work, and feed only what can be taken care of without extra labor.

The farmer should use great caution in

buying, not buy old oxen to fat unless they are in high condition to begin with, for the growth amounts to nothing upon old cattle. But let him select good sized young cattle in fair condition in the fall, which he can usually buy for 1½ to 2 cents per lb. live weight.—Then he has the benefit of growth as well as the increase of flesh.

During the months of February and March they will generally bring from 3½ to 4½ cents per lb. live weight. A farmer must not expect to make prime beef with four or six week's feeding from cattle that might be called just in fair wintering order. It takes about that length of time to get them started; about the third month you will begin to see them thrive finely if properly cared for.

J. B. COBB.

Kalamazoo, Feb. 22, 1860.

Cultivation of Potatoes—Prince Alberts.

During the past year or two, much has been said on the cultivation of potatoes. Perhaps the system recommended by Mr. Howatt of New Jersey is the most economical of any, where circumstances will admit of it. The principal features of his system are as follows: After the ground is prepared, mark out in drills with the plow, drop the seed and cover with the plow, and as soon as the potatoes are well up, pass a fine toothed harrow lengthwise of the drills, which destroys nearly all weeds that may have come up; the after-cultivation may be finished with the plow and cultivator, with but little hand labor. But it will appear evident, that to practice this plan with success, it is necessary the land must be well prepared, free from sods, stones and other obstructions, or the work will not be well done. A crop of potatoes grown on this plan, can be harvested with expedition, by first turning a furrow from the drill on each side, and then pulling out the tubers with a potato hook.

The writer has observed that many farmers of late years plant potatoes too shallow. If the seed is placed near the surface, the tubers will be found near the surface when the crop is harvested, and much less in quantity than when planted at a good depth, say five inches; and what is more, they are not near as liable to rot, as when grown near the surface of the ground.

The Prince Albert potato, which is comparatively a new variety, has been thoroughly tested by the writer, for two seasons past, and found to be of excellent quality, unsurpassed productiveness, and freedom from rot. The tubers are very smooth, of good size and easy to clean. It must eventually become a valuable market variety.

A variety somewhat resembling Prince Albert has been sold under this name, but which is entirely a different thing. For price of Prince Albert potatoes, see advertisement in this paper.

B. J. HARVEY.

Adrian, Mich.

P. S.—Persons ordering Prince Alberts, will receive, if desired, a specimen of Davis' seedling potatoes—a new choice variety.

B. J. H.

That Productive Corn.

MR. EDWIN:—Sir: The corn that I sent you is known here as the Lancaster Corn, or Virginia Streak—generally called the Lancaster. The stalks are of medium size, joints short, the leaves broad and very thick and tough. I think that it excels any other that I have ever raised in that respect.—As for the yield per acre, I am unable to say, not thinking at the time of bringing it into public notice. But the five acres that I had of that kind was judged to be sixty bushels of shelled corn to the acre. I might here say that the land is a light opening, broke up two years ago last spring and planted to corn—and then sowed to wheat amongst the corn—last spring manured and planted again.—It could not be considered a very brag crop only for its soundness, unless I append the remarks that some of my old neighbors made, that I had bought a real Whippoorwill farm.

I have a few notions about seeding with clover that I may address to you hereafter.

Yours truly,

ALLEN TURNER.

Matteson, Feb. 25.

We shall be pleased to have those notions whenever our correspondent has them ready

Cattle Choking.

A correspondent of the Ohio Cultivator writes: "After trying every thing we could think of, such as shooting off a pistol under the creature's belly, spoiling a good whale-bone carriage while in endeavoring to loose the obstruction, and so forth, it occurred to me that a little warm soap-suds would relax the muscles, and the slippery suds thereby work in between the obstruction and the surrounding parts. Accordingly, her head was held up, and down went the suds; it gave immediate relief."

Winter Care of Stock.

The Washtenaw Farmers' Club held its first meeting on Saturday last in the court house at Ann Arbor. The subject discussed was the winter care of stock. The discussion first brought up the structure of barns, and especially the benefit of those which had the advantage of a side hill. Stone basements partially or wholly sunk below the surface, were considered the best for stock, as they afforded the best protection against the severity of the winter. Judge Clark, however, did not seem to think that an underground stable was necessary for stock, and in this we think he is right. Some of the best stock raisers in the State, have no facilities for underground stables; and one of the best feeders we know, prefers to give his stock the range of one of his yards, and good sheds only during the whole winter, with plenty of straw, feeding them regularly. With this practice he finds his fat cattle to do better than when tied up and stall fed. Young cattle, however, in many cases, are tied up under sheds moderately tight; but we must say that, from a somewhat large experience and observation, we think cattle suffer more from being kept too warm and with not sufficient ventilation in all parts of their stables, than from want of protection from cold. Not sufficient allowance is made for the large quantity of air that ten or twenty animals will consume in a short space of time, and their inability to get a supply. Most of the underground stables that have come under our notice, have not afforded sufficient ventilation, and some have not had any. Cattle have been found in the morning suffering from this cause; in fact, we have seen them driven out when they were so weak from the effects of a close atmosphere, that they could hardly stand the effects of the fresh air.

Mr. Storey had found that calves well fed during their first winter repaid him. He also found that a mixture of chalk and corn meal was an effectual remedy for the scour.

Mr. Carpenter had two cutting boxes for feed, used them with salt, gave them corn stalks, straw, and wheat chaff mixed; cattle never looked so well; would think that an underground stable would be too warm unless well ventilated; was wintering four calves, which are kept tied up; his man preferred to tie them up with ropes around the neck instead of the horns; keeps them warm, and feeds regularly with small portions of food at a time; says their heads ought to be free.

Mr. Hill stated that he had fed carrots formerly to his cattle, but the present winter he had used ruta bagas, and found them as good as carrots. No bad flavor in milk or butter had accrued from their use.

Mr. Baldwin had fed his cows with small potatoes, at the rate of half a peck each morning, giving corn at night; used a great deal of salt in feeding his stock, and gave it to his sheep regularly.

During the discussion, Mr. Bird stated that an uncle of his in New Jersey had fed cattle with meal alone, and with meal and potatoes, those having nothing but meal did better than those fed with potatoes in addition; thought, therefore, that potatoes were of no benefit.

Thos. McMahon explained by stating that it was evident the cattle were Dutch, and not Irish, for he had seen cattle and pigs fat on nothing else but potatoes. Now, for our part, we think it plain that the fault was in the tubers, which evidently were not of the "mealy" variety.

Pasturing Meadows.

A statement recently was made in the Country Gentleman that 3,540 pounds, or four tons and a quarter of Timothy hay had been raised on one acre. The secret of such production being claimed to be that the meadow or grass land on which it was raised was not allowed to be pastured at any season. A correspondent from Burlington, N. Y., writes that this brings to his recollection that "having some years since been riding with a gentleman in Rhode Island among his numerous farms, and being asked by one of his farmers if he might not turn the cows on a piece of nice pasture: he replied "no, if the cows have not enough pasture where they are, go to work and cut up corn for them." This was strange to me, and on asking him for an explanation, he said he never permitted his mowing lands to be pastured, or rather he never took off the aftermath in any way, and was enabled by this course to cut four tons timothy hay per acre. I once tried this course, and was rewarded by a bountiful crop the next year; but it is too great a temptation for most to resist, to have good pasture and not turn stock on it when they need it. But if we would only sow a few acres of corn broad cast in the fifth and sixth months, say half an acre at a time, for a stock of 15 to 20 cows, at intervals of two weeks, say from 1st of 6th month, (or earlier in some latitudes,) to the middle of 7th mo., we should have abundance of first rate feed, and should be able to let our Timothy meadows stand.

MICHIGAN STOCK REGISTER.

SHORTHORNS.

Numbers with an "e" following them refer to the English Herdbook—all others refer to the American Herdbook, unless otherwise noted.

No. 125.—JOHN BULL. Light Roan. Calved Sept. 1, 1857. Bred by George Wythe, Reigate, Surreyshire, England. Imported by F. E. Sibley, of Detroit.
Sire, Fanatic by Lillywick.
Dam, Dahlia, by Locomotive.
1 g. dam, Delight, by Nelson, 4547e.
2 g. dam, Dahlia, by Milton 5815e.
3 g. dam, Lilly, by Merlin 2802e.
4 g. dam, —, by Midas 485e.
5 g. dam, —, by Denton 195e.
The pedigree of Fanatic, the sire of John Bull, is thus given:
Dam, Madame, by James 2d 5178e.
1 g. dam, Mermaid, by Mahomed 6170e.
2 g. dam, Pastime, by Fanatic 1996e.
3 g. dam, Phebe, by Spectator 2688e.
4 g. dam, Phebe, by Sir Roger de Coverly 5187e.
5 g. dam, —, by Albion 1619e.

[This animal is a very promising two year old, sent to Mr. Sibley from one of the best herds in England, which on his passage to this country suffered very severely from the effects of storms; he has not yet fully recovered. But if "John Bull" had not had a constitution of the strongest kind, he could hardly have survived the severities to which he has been submitted.—His points are all good with but one exception, and his hide and coat unmistakably proclaim him of good quality. When he fully recovers from the effects of his voyage, we shall not be surprised to find him very highly appreciated.]

Foot Rot in Sheep and its Remedy.

Messrs. Editors:—The foot rot is essentially an inflammation of the softer parts of the foot, about the horny covering of the hoof, and is contagious; so, if it once appears, and is not checked, the whole flock is generally injured. The disease may be known by the following symptoms: The animal limps in walking, as if the feet were painful; the hoofs are hot and the skin adjoining swells, with symptoms of fever, ordinarily being alternately hot and cold, by spells. The inflammation is partly in the cleft of the foot, partly in the toes, under the hoof, and partly under the edge and thin part of the hoof. The appetite fails as soon as the fever appears. If the fever abates and the appetite returns, it will go well with the sheep, unless the decay of the bone (caries) sets in, which symptom attends the most malignant form of the footrot. On the second or third day following the appearance of the disease, the hoof and adjoining parts lose their reddish color, the skin in the cleft of the foot meantime being redder, more like the natural color. Then follows a watery discharge of exceedingly offensive odor, the skin separates from the parts beneath, and the foot becoming more painful as the disease increases. The inflammation continues to increase farther under the hoof, and deeper into the flesh, and affects more extensively both parts of the foot on both sides. The cleft becomes gradually deeper, by dividing of the flesh; the tender flesh that unites the hoofs to the bones of the toes softens, and results in the hoof falling off entirely in the course of about three or four weeks.

Remedy.—As soon as the true malignant rot is discovered in the flock, the diseased sheep must be separated from the healthy ones, and the stable must be cleaned. The best remedy for this disease that I have found is butter of antimony and spirits of hartshorn. The spirits of turpentine and blue vitriol, mixed together, are also very good. The animal must be turned up on its rump that the feet can be thoroughly examined and the dead parts cut away with a sharp knife down to the living parts; if it bleeds a little, that does no harm. The foot must then be smeared with the mixture of turpentine and blue vitriol. It is sometimes well to bind up the foot in a linen bandage. The animal must not be allowed to go in any soft or dirty place, but should be kept on dry straw litter. Every fourth day they must be carefully examined, one by one, and the remedy again applied, as long as necessary. If this is strictly adhered to, in the course of a month the flock will be entirely sound again; the appetite will return, and the animal in a short time be in good condition.—CARL HEYNE, Red Hook, N. Y., in Boston Cultivator.

The Wheat Crop in New York.

At the late annual meeting of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society it was stated that the wheat crops of 1816 and of 1859 were the largest ever raised in that State. That of last year being next to that of 1816.

Annals.

Annals are becoming much more popular for cultivation than they have been amongst the regular florists, and their improvement is attracting much attention.—"To do them justice," says Turner in his Florist, "each one must be treated individually as a specimen plant, and then you get a freedom of growth combined with profusion of bloom, and what is more, the deeper and richer the soil, the longer they continue in perfection."

The Garden & Orchard.

The Essentials to Success in Pear Culture.

BY T. T. LYON, PLYMOUTH, MICH.

To insure success in the culture of this somewhat fastidious fruit, the first of all requisites, is the selection of a suitable soil. In making such selection, it becomes us to observe, closely, the influence of different soils, as indicated by the plantations about us, and to compare the results with the directions given in our best Pomological works. It is the opinion of Mr. Downing, (Revised Fruits, p. 411,) that "The best soil for this fruit tree, is a strong loam of moderate depth, on a dry subsoil. The pear will, indeed, adapt itself to as great a variety of soils as any other fruit tree, but, in unfavorable soils, it is more liable to suffer from disease than any other. Soils that are damp during any considerable portion of the year, are entirely unfit for the pear tree; and soils that are over rich and deep, like some of the western alluvials, force the tree into such over luxuriant growth, that its wood does not ripen well, and is liable to be killed by winter blight."

Mr. Barry says—(Fruit Garden, p. 161.) "There are soils of a certain texture and quality, in which, by proper management, all our hardy fruits may be grown to perfection. For instance, the soil of our specimen orchard, which is that usually termed a sandy loam, with a sandy clay subsoil, so dry that it can be worked immediately after a rain of twenty-four hours. On this we have apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, apricots, and, indeed, all the fruits planted promiscuously, side by side, not by choice but necessity, and all these yield bountiful crops of the finest fruit every season, and that, so far, without any special attention in the way of manures or composts. *** For an orchard of apples or pears, a dry, deep, substantial soil, between a sandy and a clayey loam, and possessing among its inorganic parts a considerable portion of lime, is, according to all experience, the best." To this he appends the following as a marginal note—"In the ashes of the sawwood of the pear of one hundred parts, there are twelve of lime, twenty-seven of phosphate of lime, and twenty-two of potash. In the ash of the bark, thirty of lime." From this he, of course, infers the necessity of choosing a strongly calcareous soil for this purpose.

Mr. T. W. Field, (Pear Culture, p. 40 and 41,) says—"No soil, however rich, that allows water to remain on its surface more than a day after it has fallen, or to rise in holes dug not more than four feet deep, is fit for plantations of the pear, or, indeed, of any other fruit tree."

"The soil for the pear must be dry, and either deep, or capable, from the nature of the subsoil, of being deepened without destroying its excellence, and of a looseness of texture sufficient to allow the free extension of the tender rootlets."

"A free loam, having a large preponderance of sand, without being light, is preferable, as it is easily worked, at times when a clayey soil would be nearly a bed of mortar."

"A more nearly perfect soil as a base, for the cultivation of the pear, is a somewhat heavy loam, composed of three-fourths of coarsely granulated sand, fifteen to twenty per cent. of clay, and the remainder of vegetable matter. This should rest upon a subsoil of sand and clay, extending to the depth of three or four feet. A bed of gravel should underlie the whole, thus affording perfect underdrainage."

The quality of surface soil prescribed by these writers may be very readily found; but its occurrence in connexion with the peculiar subsoil described in the last quotation, is believed to be exceedingly rare. The lack of such a combination, however, is by no means an insuperable bar to the cultivation of this fruit. Instances are not wanting within the writer's acquaintance where this fruit is grown, with good success, even on very light soils, by the free use of special manures.

In most cases the strong loam so well adapted to the growth of this fruit, will, probably, be found to be based on clayey and retentive subsoils. With such a subsoil, the only difficulty in the way of the successful culture of this fruit is the lack of efficient drainage. In the writer's experience, this has proved to be the difficulty, even on soils of this character, which, in the estimation of most persons, would be considered abundantly dry for ordinary farm crops. Indeed, from ten years' experience, he has reached the conclusion that no soil and subsoil thus combined, no matter how rolling the surface, will be found adapted to the highest success of this fruit, unless submitted to a thorough process of underdrainage.

Another requisite of success with this fruit

is the selection of a location sheltered from the blasts of winter, and also from the high winds of summer and autumn, which often do great damage, by breaking down branches, and blowing down large quantities of the finest fruits. Such shelter can often be secured by leaving a belt of timber along the west and north sides of the orchard in clearing the land. Such a belt may be made of fectual by cutting out the trees with tall naked trunks, leaving only smaller ones, or such as are of low and compact growth. Such a belt, even if comparatively open, will, if cattle are shut out, soon grow up compact, with the trees well branched from the ground; and, if a row or hedge of some strong growing evergreen, such as Norway Spruce, be planted along its border, they will soon grow up, so as to warrant the cutting away of the belt of deciduous trees, which must, necessarily, occupy considerable ground. Where such a belt of timber does not exist, it will doubtless pay to sow the seeds, or plant hedges of some rapid growing trees, such as Locust, Poplar, or Willow, choosing, of course, those best adapted to the soil and locality. In connexion with these, the writer would urge the planting of a hedge or belt of Norways, or other suitable evergreens, which, when grown up, will take the place of the deciduous trees, and which will make a hardy and durable screen, alike effective in winter and summer.

The writer is aware that objection will probably be made to the expense of planting and growing such a belt; but he is satisfied that it will amply remunerate the grower, in the increased health and productiveness of the orchard, while, in those regions where such shelter is most needed, the growth of timber will doubtless do much to repay the expense of its planting and tillage. The subject will be pursued farther in a subsequent article.

Soils, Fruits and Manures in England.

FROM TURNER'S FLORIST.

We sometimes hear the observation made that the original quality of the soil is not of so much consequence for fruit, as it can be easily improved by manuring; indeed, with some, this reference to the manure heap is the universal remedy for unhealthy fruit trees, and only serves to show how imperfectly the action of soils on the constitution of fruit trees has been noticed. So far as our experience leads us to give an opinion, we believe the application of manure to most stone fruits is fatal, and to others a very equivocal remedy for a soil naturally unfavorable. Many kinds of fruits are known to be extremely fastidious as to soil, and it is equally true that some varieties in each class will grow more freely than others in unfavorable soils; the question to be solved is, to account satisfactorily for so great a difference in members of the same family. We shall not go so far as to say that a particular soil and climate originates the peculiarities known to exist among fruits; but one thing is certain, that while some varieties of fruit refuse to grow with any vigor beyond a very limited range, others of the same class appear almost indifferent as to soil or situation. With these facts before us, may we ask vegetable physiologists the question, whether they have met with such a principle as a vegetable idiosyncrasy in their investigations, to explain the likes and dislikes, the partialities and prejudices (if I may say so), of fruit trees for certain soils and localities?

The Vine, which, under a few restrictions as to soil, flourishes throughout the temperate regions of the Old World, producing its luscious fruit, and no less generous juice, from the 21° to 51° of north latitude, when transported to America, produces fruit of very inferior value; its rich vinous flavor deteriorates, and its juice cannot be converted into anything approaching the wines of France, Spain, or the Rhine, and yet it is difficult to understand why this is the case. The climate of the United States is equally bright and warm as in those parts of Europe where the richest fruit and most generous wines are produced, and there is not that appreciable difference in the soil to account for the change produced in a European Vine when transported across the Atlantic. Indeed, we find those varieties of the Vine indigenous to the American soil especially vigorous and productive, and as such are almost exclusively cultivated, though most decidedly inferior.

It is easier to account for the deterioration of British Strawberries when grown in America; the dryness of its climate and severity of its winters would affect both the quality and constitution of Strawberries, natives of the milder climate of Britain; and that varieties raised in America are found to be stronger in constitution and surpass ours in

flavor, when grown together, is not surprising. The same thing happens with their best kinds, when fruited in this country, as they are inferior in that delicacy and piquancy which characterise our best kinds.

But although the climate of America does not suit European vines or strawberries, pears and apples grow to great perfection, with a few exceptions. Some of the apples raised in America are not surpassed by the best European kinds, and America may well be proud of originating such sterling varieties of the plum as the Jefferson and Washington, as well as several first-rate kinds of peach and cherry. But looking at the question in reference to our immediate inquiry, we find there, as at home, and as elsewhere, that the same peculiarities as to soil and locality exist, according to the annals of American pomologists.

But let us again look at the fruits of our own country. The Cornish Giffiflower apple makes a vigorous tree and furnishes its rich-flavored fruit in abundance on the clay slates and decomposed granite of Cornwall, but is weakly and bears inferior fruit everywhere else, so far as we have ascertained. Take, again, that fine apple the Bess Pool; located on the marls of the old and new red sandstone of Shropshire, it grows to a large size and when out of its teens is a prolific bearer; yet we do not remember ever seeing a respectable tree on the London clay or the Eastern side of England; on the calcareous soils near the writer of this, it can only be said to exist. To conclude: why is it that the Winesour plum luxuriates on the magnesian limestone formation exclusively? We have tried it on several descriptions of loams and clays, but its growth is puny, compared with the trees we have seen in North Notts and Yorkshire. We could readily multiply these instances, were it necessary to do so.

The steps taken by the Fruit Committees of the Pomological and Horticultural Societies, to ascertain the cause of these peculiarities in the habit, flavor, and productiveness of fruits, as affected by soils, are of the utmost importance to fruit growers, and we hope in time that sufficient evidence will be collected to form exact data as to the influence certain soils exercise on the quality of fruits, which, once ascertained, will greatly facilitate their labors, and make success more certain.

Italian Bees.

In accordance with my instructions from the Patent office, I arrived in the country of the Italian Lakes in April, 1859, and commenced searching for Italian bees.

I wandered about among the hills of this delightful region and examined many hives, but could not feel satisfied that any of them were of the pure Ligurian stock. The Italians are not a careful people, and it is difficult to find among them sufficient knowledge and skill to keep pure any kind of stock. The approach of hostile armies stopped my further researches for the time, and I was obliged to wait until the conclusion of peace for further efforts.

In the following September, as I was about leaving my Swiss home for another trip into Italy, I learned that an intelligent Bavarian named Hermann, had established himself in the Grisons, and had devoted himself with much enthusiasm to the culture of pure Italian bees, which he collected wherever he could find them, but mostly from the Vattelin.

I visited him at once, examined his hives, and was convinced that they were pure. I purchased of him for the Department to the full amount I was authorized to expend, and ordered them to be sent by the Arago on the 18th of October, from Havre. By some unaccountable delay they were not shipped until December 28th from Genoa. They are doubtless on their way, and will, on their arrival in New York, be forwarded at once to Washington. I sent by the same vessel a few hives for my own use, and in order to insure the thorough introduction of this breed, I have purchased one hundred additional hives for myself, which will be shipped next month, and from which, during the ensuing summer, I shall be able to supply many who desire them.

Since I last communicated with the Department, I have had additional intercourse with European agriculturists, and am increasingly impressed with the great value of this species. It was not introduced into Northern Europe until 1853, and its introduction is every year more appreciated as a new era in bee culture. Its introduction into the United States may no less constitute a new era, and the Patent Office will deserve the gratitude of the country for its efforts to obtain it. This will be better understood when the

profits of bee culture shall be so generally appreciated that every farmer will have his hundred hives, the inmates of which will gather up the multitude of sweets which now are lost, and yield to their owner, according to his care, from three to ten thousand pounds of honey, or, according to Langstroth's lowest estimate, five hundred dollars per annum profit. It cannot be doubted that Italian bees will entirely take the place of our common species, from the reasons: first, that they will endure the cold better; 2d, that they swarm twice as often; 3d, that their queens are abundantly more prolific; 4th, that the working bees begin to forage earlier and are more industrious; 5th, that they are less apt to sting, and may be easily tamed by kind treatment; 6th, that the queen may be so educated as to lay her eggs in any hive in which she is placed, while the bees of such a hive, deprived of their own queen, will readily receive her; 7th, that its proboscis is longer, and it can reach the depths of flowers which are entirely beyond the efforts of the common bee. The importance of this last superiority cannot be too highly appreciated; 8th, that a young queen once impregnated, will continue fertile during her life—from four to seven years. This quality will insure pure brood, till the whole country is filled with them; 9th, that they are far more brave and active than the common bee, will fight with great fierceness, and more effectually keep the moth out of the hive.

They can be easily distinguished by a broad, yellow band around the abdomen.

I feel assured of their susceptibility to entire domestication, for I went in among them without any protection, unless a cigar could be considered such. My companion uncovered the hives and took out the bees, which swarmed around me in great numbers, but did no harm, except one, whom I treated rather roughly when he alighted on my finger.

It is the custom of the Italians to take them up on the highest Alps, and I, therefore, feel certain of their great hardiness.

I believe that this bee will soon prevail in the United States, and drive all others out of culture. This will result from a conviction everywhere of the large profits to be derived from its propagation and its labor. To import a hive of full size from Europe will cost from twenty to twenty-five dollars.

It may be, therefore, safely assumed that, for a couple of years to come, the demand for these bees will be very great, at ten dollars for a queen impregnated, which will produce thirty thousand workers and at least fifty queens in one season. For, perhaps, three years more their value will be five dollars, and less, until the country is fully stocked with them.

As soon as the demand fails, the possessor of them is thrown back upon their labor for his profit. Their labor will be more productive than that of the common bee, and Langstroth gives the produce of the latter from thirty to a hundred pounds of honey for each hive, besides the wax. His lowest estimate is five dollars profit per hive.

A German writer says that from one Italian queen he obtained more than one hundred and thirty fertile young queens, but I state fifty as a safer number. The great value of this breed is the safety and ease with which they can be handled and divided up. When it is recollected that each hive will make fifty others in the first year, and, consequently, twenty-five hundred others the second year, and then, when the demand fails, each colony or hive will produce honey to the value of five dollars, it will be readily conceded that its money power will speedily settle the question of its general introduction.

It must not be forgotten, however, that success in this, as in all high breeding, requires care and attention, and for want of this some may be disappointed in their results. The facts I have stated are asserted by the best agriculturists in Europe, and many be considered reliable.

With regard to some other points in the description of Italian bees I find my notes confirm entirely the remarks and letters given in Langstroth's valuable book, and I will, therefore, not repeat what you can read better there.

Every one interested in bees should not fail to buy this book and read it. In no other can he find such valuable information, or learn so well what veritable slaves of the lamp these little insects are, giving to their master three-quarters of their earnings, and demanding in return no food, and but little more attention than a woman or an intelligent child can give.

To this book I must also refer you for the best mode of introducing Italian queens to our native stock, or dividing up whole Italian colonies. I cannot perceive that the Gen-

man or Italian mode differs materially from it.

Trusting that the bees will reach you safely I remain, very respectfully,

S. B. PARSONS.

WILLIAM D. BISHOP, Commissioner of Patents.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

New Seeds for 1860.

We note that the London seedsmen are offering for sale very freely the seeds of a number of new plants, of which they speak very highly. Amongst them is the snowy white flowered Flax, Mellini's auricula flowered Sweet William, the Japan Pink, two or three new Bouvardias, Rudbeckia Grandiflora, Cuphea Zimapan, Spraguea umbellata, Ipomoea limbata, and the Michauxia campanulata. As we think the description of the Spraguea is a specimen of an advertising notice remarkably clear and lucid, and almost as moderate as clear, we copy it, and beg our readers not to imagine that this modern production is one of the vegetable kingdom that must have adorned the bowers of Eve when she opened her eyes in Eden, but that probably some of the flowers she then saw were like it. The advertiser says of the Spraguea:

"A highly interesting and beautiful dwarf hardy biennial plant of Calendula-like habit, with rosette stemless crowns of spatulate shaped fleshy leaves, from within the centre of which rise rich red crimson flower stems, 6 to 9 or 12 inches in height, terminating in umbellate clusters of rounded ball-like flower heads of densely crowded small rich violet-purple blossoms, each of which is surrounded at the base with a remarkably translucent silvery-tinted, circular, calx-like fringe or collar, which, in consequence of the great number of these florets in each head or cluster, are pressed upon each other into a globular outline, and appear collectively like silver-hued flower balls, tinted with violet. It forms a very novel and attractive appearance in bloom, well adapted for edgings to flower borders or basins, also producing a pretty effect upon the summits of small elevated mounds of artistic stone work, with a darkened ground-color."

If his customers don't buy after reading that there can be no virtue in descriptions.

Pears in Paris.

The Hon. J. S. Cabot thus writes about the pears he has seen in Paris:

"The Mon. Le Cure is a very common pear in the market, called there the St. Germain; indeed this name is applied by the market women to different varieties in a way that I have sometimes thought that with them it was a generic name.—The other more common varieties in the market for the month past, were the Duchesse, Beurre Diel—always called Beurre Magnifique, and Glout Moreau, universally called d'Arenberg, not differing materially from the same varieties with us. Latterly I have seen a good many Easter Beurre, very good, but not better specimens than are frequently seen in the United States.

"The price of pears is very high; in the market the usual price is half a franc each for good specimens of almost any variety; while that of superior specimens of some varieties is much higher. For a good specimen of Easter Beurre the price is one franc. These are the prices in the market; in the fruit shops they are still higher.

"I see one variety of pear, common in the shops and market, about which I cannot arrive at any conclusion satisfactory to myself. I refer to a pear called the Belle Angeline. It is of enormous size, I think the largest pear that I have ever seen; one was on exhibition that weighed one and half kilograms, or more than three pounds, and I have seen many nearly as large."

Soaking of Seeds.

One of the best methods of preparation of seeds for an early start is to soak them in diluted liquid manure. Hen dung is much recommended for this purpose. Sometimes soaked seeds do not come forward, or rot in the ground; but frequently it is the case that the seeds are not attended to, but are allowed to heat, or sometimes to get dry, before they are sown. Another point is to have for small seeds, the soil in good warm friable condition; if the seeds are soaked and the surface of the soil is warm, and the soil itself is pressed down close to the seed by rolling, or the hoe, when the sowing is done, it will make a material difference in the time which they will take to sprout; and besides this the manure with which their outer coat is saturated, protects them from the attacks of worms and insects.

Effect of Squirrels in City Parks.

The squirrels have increased to such an extent in the public parks in Philadelphia that they have become a nuisance, and it is now proposed to banish them entirely from the squares. As the trees yield no nuts many die during the winter from starvation, and it is also alleged that they have driven away all insectivorous birds, and that worms have so increased in consequence, as to make the rapid destruction of the trees inevitable, besides extending the contagion to all other shade trees in the city.

Garden Seeds.

It will be seen that Mr. D. D. Tooker, of Napoleon, offers for sale some valuable garden seeds, which are worthy of the attention of those who wish to make a trial of them. He has given considerable attention to the raising of seeds for several years, and for variety of production in this department has borne off many premiums at the State and county fairs.

Lime for Currants.

An application of air slacked lime early in the spring, by dusting it over the leaves, preserves the foliage from the attack of the insect which occasions the curl of the leaf, and which make the currant unsightly.

Wilson's Seedling.

Is offered on favorable terms by Mr. Hays, of Bridgewater, Oneida county, New York; as will be seen by reference to his advertisement.

History of the Oat.

Professor Wilson in his farm crops, gives the following history of the oat:

"Like the other cereals, the early history of the oat is enveloped in mystery. It has been so long in cultivation, without any distinct records to guide us to its original country, that it still remains unknown. It has been suggested that the cultivated oat originally came from Persia or Mesopotamia, countries to which we are indebted for so many of our cultivated productions. Indeed, Col. Chesney, in one of his explorations, met with a variety of oat growing wild on the banks of the Euphrates, which would go far to strengthen this belief. Dr. Lindley tells us that although this plant (which he describes) differs materially from our common oat, still it is not inconceivable that it may be either the original state of this kind of corn, or that it may be in a state of degeneracy, arising from many centuries of neglect. No mention, however, is made of it in the Bible, where we find the other cereals spoken of.

It would, therefore, appear doubtful whether it was known to the natives of the East at that early period. This fact, combined with the known hardness of its constitution, leads others to look upon it as a plant more likely of northern origin; for it is cultivable up to the most northern latitude. Yet, in all the countries which have been visited, no trace of its wild prototype has been discovered. Our evidence is certainly very defective with regard to the early history of oats. None of the Roman agricultural writers mention it; and yet we find in Roman history indications of cultivation, from the story of the Emperor Caligula feeding his favorite horse with gilt oats served in a golden manger. The wide range of soils that oats possess, and the comparatively low temperature under which they come to their maturity, have rendered them well adapted to the cultivation of high latitudes, and especially for insular climates. If we draw a line across England we should find that north of York the oat thrives better than in the southern half, where the comparative dryness of the air and the higher temperature of the climate render it more suitable for the cultivation of wheat and barley. In Scotland we find oats cultivated to its northern extremity, lat. 58 deg. 40 min.—In Sweden they are met with as a crop as far as lat. 63 deg. 30 min. In Norway their cultivation is pushed still further northward to lat. 65 deg.; and in Russia their polar limit corresponds with that of rye—about 65 deg. 32 min. N. lat. If we turn southward, we find the climate becoming gradually less and less suited for them. This is well marked within the limits of our own country. South of the parallel of Paris 48 deg. 50 min. N. lat., we rarely see oats in cultivation. In Spain and Portugal they are hardly known at all; yet they are cultivated successfully in Bengal, in lat. 25 deg.* Here, probably, the moisture of the soil compensates for the extreme temperature of the climate, as we find at home that the oat, when once fairly growing in a suitable soil, will stand a drought better than either of our other cereals. On some of the moist alluvial soils in the southern and western counties, crops of oats are grown which would compare favorably, both in quantity and quality, with those produced in the more genial climates of the north.—Oats are cultivated as a food grain for both man and cattle. In Great Britain (in the northern portions chiefly) they enter into human consumption to a far greater extent than in any other. In some parts of Germany, especially in the south of Westphalia, the inhabitants of the "Sauerland" live extensively on oat bread. In other parts of the Continent, in countries where wheat is only cultivated to a limited extent, barley, or more commonly rye, is preferred to oats as a bread-corn for daily use. In most countries, however, of the centre and north of Europe, oats are cultivated as horse-corn; and, indeed, in the hotter climates of the south and in the east, barley is even preferable for that purpose, as the stimulating effects of oats on the animal system are increased to an injurious extent by the action of the warmer climate."

Gerardo, an irreproachable witness, saw oats and wheat growing in the same ear. A gentleman told Dr. Lindley that in Germany oats sown early, and not allowed to produce ears the first year, were found in the second year to yield other sorts of corn. In 1843 he Marquis of Bristol tried the experiment. Oats were sown, and their stems continually stopped; and in 1844 some produced a slender kind of barley, a few yielded wheat, and some still produced oats. (*Gardener's Chronicle*, 1844. 655.) In 1800, Dr. Anderson quoted an instance of a Dutchman who cut his oats while green three times, and that when they were allowed to seed they produced rye. (*Recreations*, ii, 779.) Similar changes are recorded in 1837 (*London's Magazine of Natural History*); and Dr. Weisenborn, who repeatedly tried the experiment, adds, "Let any one sow the oats at the latter end of June, and the transformation will certainly occur."

We confess to be of the number who are not surprised at such changes; for we believe that a vast number of plants now considered distinct species are merely one species altered by soil, climate, cross-breeding, and other circumstances. Dr. Lindley has found Orchids, differing as much from each other as wheat, barley, and oats, are all one and the same species. Mr. Morton, already quoted, has raised spring and winter varieties of tares from that diminutive weed, the narrow-leaved vetch (*Vicia angustifolia*); and after a series of sowings we have raised a strawberry worthy of the table from seed originally obtained from the wood strawberry.

Tar on Potatoes.
A. B. Dickinson, of whose experience we have heard almost as much as of John Johnston of Geneva, stated at a meeting of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society that the practice with the potato was to select out the heaviest, as the best to withstand the blight. He tested his potatoes by putting them in very strong brine. Those that were the heaviest were the best to grow. He cut his potatoes into pieces of two eyes in each. He also stated that he had not planted or sown any kind of seed for ten years without a coating of tar, and in preparing his potatoes for planting he dissolved one pint of tar in three pails of boiling water, and added four pails of water afterwards. This solution he either poured over his seed potatoes, so that each got a coating, or the potatoes were dipped in it and then sprinkled with plaster. He stated that he formerly had no trouble in raising five hundred bushels per acre, but of late he could not do this. Though one year he had raised at the rate of four hundred and fifty bushels per acre, yet he seldom averaged above three hundred bushels.

The editor of the *Cottage Gardener* takes exception to the statement that the oat was unknown to the Romans, or was not mentioned by their writers and makes the following remarks on the subject:

"Mr. Wilson was decidedly forgetful when he wrote, 'None of the Roman agricultural writers mention' the oat. He would have been correct if he had excepted Columella.—This author says—after speaking of the

*At the New York Exhibition, 1858, a sheaf of oats was exhibited with other agricultural produce from California, 30 deg. N. lat., which measured 10 feet 6 inches in height, the heads averaging from 22 to 28 inches in length.

mode of cultivating barley—"In like manner is the sowing of the oat, which sown in autumn is partly cut for hay, or fodder, whilst yet green, and partly it is protected for seed." (*Similis sativæ avenæ, quæ autumnum sota, partim caditur in fœnem, vel pabulum, dum adhuc viret, partim semini custoditur.*—Columella, I. ii., c. xi.)

Although only that one of the professed Roman agricultural writers mentions the oat, yet there are others of their authors who specially mention it, though not in commendation of its merits. Virgil, in a line twice written by him, speaks of "oats, causes of barrenness" (*steriles avenæ*). Buc., v., l. 37—Georg., i., l. 154.)

Again, in the same Georgic, line 226, Virgil says, "The expected crop has disappointed them by yielding barren oats" (*Expectata seges vanis elusit avenis*), alluding, seemingly, to an opinion entertained by the Romans, and by Theophrastus at a still earlier period, that the oat is diseased wheat. Pliny says, "The oat is the chief deformity of all wheat, and barley also degenerates into it; so much so, indeed, that it has superseded wheat, and the people of Germany saw it and make porridge of it alone." (*Primum omnium frumenti vitum avena est; et hordeum in eam degenerat, sicut ipsa frumenti sit instar: quippe cum Germanie populi serant eam, neque alia pelle vivant.* Plin. Nat. Hist., l. xvii.)

That one species of the Gramineæ, to which National Order all our corn crops belong, will take various forms, according as its culture is varied, can be sustained by many evidences. In very recent days, M. Fabre and others have improved the *Egilops triticoides* by culture until it became wheat; and Mr. Morton, author of the "Cyclopædia of agriculture," obtained both potato and Tartarian oats, after five or six years' cultivation, from *Avena fatua*, a grass in no high estimation.

As it is possible to create, by cultivation, our corn plants from inferior grasses, so have we evidence that those plants may be transmuted still further.

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The Feeding of Stock and the Value of Manure.

BY J. D. LAWES OF ROTHAMSTED.

Agriculturists have been called upon to believe that great discoveries have recently been made in the science and practice of the feeding of animals. To use the words of one of the most notorious of the new lights on this subject:—"The manufacture of an alimentary and condimental compound for the seasoning of the food of live stock is one of the most important advances in applied science which the pen of the agriculturist has to record."

Being largely interested in the feeding of stock for profit, and having devoted a great deal of time and money in inquiries to obtain fixed data relating to the feeding of animals, the conclusion to which I have arrived is, that no proof has yet been given that these new foods have any practical value whatever in an economical point of view. Nor does a knowledge of the composition of these foods add anything to what was previously known on the subject of feeding.

To enable those who are practically engaged in feeding stock to judge for themselves what profit they are likely to derive from the use of food costing from £40 to £50 per ton, I propose to call attention to a few facts connected with the subject of feeding which have been established by the results of my own experiments.

The first question to consider is, what is the probable amount of saleable increase, or meat, that may be calculated upon as the produce of a given amount of ordinary good fattening food? The second is, what is the probable value of the manure? In offering a very few brief observations on these two points, I shall not attempt here to give any exact estimates of the comparative feeding properties of different foods, but merely state the average quantity of ordinary mixed foods of recognised good quality, required to produce a given amount of gross increase weight. I shall, however, give estimates of the comparative value of the residue remaining for manure, from a given weight of a number of the most important of our stock-foods.

If feeding experiments are conducted over a sufficiently long period of time—if they include a sufficiently large number of animals to neutralise the influence of individual peculiarities, and if they are in all other respects performed with sufficient care, results will be obtained from which there would be but little deviation whenever the experiment was repeated. Results so obtained may be expressed in a few figures, which, for all the practical purposes of general estimates, may be safely taken to represent the average result of well-managed stock-feeding.

My own experiments show that oxen and sheep fed liberally upon good fattening food, composed of a moderate proportion of cake or corn, a little hay or straw chaff, together with roots or other succulent food, will yield over a considerable period of time, one part of increase in live weight for from eight to ten parts of dry substance supplied in such mixed food. The quantity of dry substance of food required will vary between these limits according to the exact character of the food and other circumstances; but nine parts of dry substance of food for one of increase in live weight may be taken as a very fair average result for oxen and sheep, with good food and good management. The dry substance of the fattening food of pigs contains much less indigestible woody fibre, and a larger proportion of assimilable constituents than that of oxen and sheep, and in their case one part of increase in live weight should be obtained from the consumption of four to five parts of dry substance in their fattening food. By the "dry substance" of food is meant that portion which would remain after driving off, by a suitable heat, all the water which in their natural state they contain.—For practical purposes it may be assumed that oilcakes and foreign corn will, on the average, contain rather less than one-seventh, and home-grown corn, hay, &c., rather more than one-seventh of their weight of water; the remainder being the so-called "dry substance" of the food. In the same sense the commoner sorts of turnips will on the average contain more than nine-tenths, and Swedes, mangels, &c., less than nine-tenths of their weight of water, the remainder being dry substance. Potatoes consist of about one-fourth dry substance and three-fourths water. From these data the farmer will be able to judge for himself, whether or not he gets a proper increase in weight of live stock for the food consumed; and from comparative experiments he can decide whether or not he gets an adequately greater rate of increase by mixing with his other food some of the mixtures offered to him at £40 or £50 per

ton. To aid him still further in his calculations on this point, it may be stated that owing to the fact that during the fattening process the saleable carcass increases very much more rapidly than the internal and other offal parts, it may be reckoned that nearly 70 per cent. of the gross increase of oxen and sheep, fattening over a considerable period of time, will be saleable carcass. Calculations of a similar kind in regard to pigs show, that of their increase in weight whilst fattening, little less than 90 per cent. may be reckoned as saleable carcass.

So much for the means of estimating the value of the increase in live weight of fattening stock. I now turn to the question of the probable average value of the manure obtained from the consumption of different descriptions of food.

The valuation of the manure resulting from the consumption of different foods is founded upon estimates of their composition, and upon a knowledge experimentally acquired of the probable average amount of those constituents of the food valuable for manure, which will be obtained in the solid and liquid excrements of the animals. In the estimates of the value of the manure from different foods given in the following table, I have based my calculations upon what I consider the average consumption of several articles when of good quality.

TABLE, Showing the estimated value of the manure obtained from the consumption of one ton of different articles of food; each supposed to be of good quality of its kind.	
Description of food.	Estimated money value of the Manure from 1 ton of each food.
1. Decorticated Cottonseed-cake.....	£32.50
2. Rape-cake.....	24.50
3. Linseed-cake.....	23.00
4. Malt-dust.....	21.25
5. Lentils.....	19.25
6. Linseed.....	18.25
7. Tares.....	18.37
8. Beans.....	18.37
9. Peas.....	16.62
10. Locust Beans.....	8.50
11. Oats.....	8.62
12. Wheat.....	8.25
13. Indian Corn.....	7.87
14. Malt.....	7.87
15. Barley.....	6.87
16. Clover hay.....	11.25
17. Meadow hay.....	7.50
18. Oat straw.....	3.87
19. Wheat straw.....	3.12
20. Barley straw.....	2.22
21. Potatoes.....	1.75
22. Mangolds.....	1.25
23. Swedish Turnips.....	1.06
24. Common Turnips.....	1.00
25. Carrots.....	1.00

It will be seen how enormously the value of the manure from 1 ton of different food varies according to the composition of the food itself. Now, from the actual analyses that have been made of several of the expensive "condimental" compound foods, as well as from a knowledge of the chief articles used in their manufacture, it may be safely asserted that a ton of few, if any of them, would yield a manure of anything like the value of either of the first nine articles in the above list. In the case of the majority of these new foods, the value of the manure from a ton of the food would certainly be much less than that from a ton of any one of those nine articles.

Family Prayer at a Tavern.

Rowland Hill was once driven by a storm into a village inn, and compelled to spend the night. When it grew late, the landlord sent a request by the waiter that the guest would go to bed. Mr. Hill replied, "I have been waiting a long time expecting to be called to family prayer."

"Family prayer! I don't know what you mean, sir; we never have such things here."

"Indeed! then tell your master I cannot go to bed until we have family prayer."

The waiter informed his master, who in consternation bounced into the room occupied by the faithful minister, and said, "Sir, I wish you would go to bed. I cannot go until I have seen all the lights out, I am so afraid of fire."

"So am I," was the reply; "but I have been expecting to be summoned to family prayer."

"All very well, sir; but it cannot be done at an inn."

"Indeed! then pray get my horse; I cannot sleep in a house where there is no family prayer."

The host preferred to dismiss his prejudice rather than his guest, and said, "I have no objection to have a prayer, but I do not know how."

"Well, then, summon your people, and let us see what can be done."

The landlord obeyed, and in a few moments the astonished domestics were upon their knees, and the landlord called upon to pray.

"Sir, I never prayed in my life; I don't know how to pray."

"Ask God to teach you," was the gentle reply.

The landlord said, folding his hands, "God teach us how to pray."

"That is prayer, my friend," cried Mr. Hill, joyfully, "go on."

"I am sure I don't know what to say now, sir."

"Yes, you do; God has taught you how to pray, now thank him for it."

"Thank you, God Almighty, for letting us pray to you!"

"Amen! amen!" exclaimed Mr. Hill, and then prayed himself.

Two years afterwards, Mr. Hill found in that same village a chapel and a school, as the result of the first effort of family prayer at the "Black Lion."

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

B. J. HARVEY, Adrian, Mich., Prince Albert Potatoes.
W. H. HAYS, Bridgewater, Wilson's Strawberry.
ELLWANGER & BARRY, Fruit and Ornamental Trees.
D. D. TOOKER, Napoleon, Choice Seeds by Mail.
W. R. ACTON & Co., Phila., "Hard Times no More."

MICHIGAN FARMER.

R. F. JOHNSTONE, EDITOR.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1860.

Editorial Miscellany.

It will be noted that we have two or three articles on feeding cattle. This subject is one that is exciting considerable attention at present. Mr. Cobb's remarks are based on correct principles, as well as practice. Of late years a large part of the profit of the farm has consisted in feeding, and those who practice this plan, are beginning to appreciate the advantages they have over those who merely give their time and attention to crops.

The letter from Mr. Hydenburk, on the economy of steaming food, and reciting his experience therewith, is worthy of the utmost attention. Of course no comparative results can as yet be deduced relative to the actual value of the two systems of steamed and unsteamed food. But we should be pleased to learn the whole process which he goes through with, such as the amount of handling he gives the fodder, both long and short, and the amount of time consumed in handling it, and whether the stock ate it at first readily, what hours are the stock fed this food, and do their whole rations consist of food that has been steamed?

A letter relative to the Ligurian bee will be found in another column which gives some interesting information relative to this celebrated variety of the bee, and which has excited the apirians to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. The letter is from S. P. Parsons, of Flushing, the agent employed by the Patent Office to procure a number of swarms for distribution. Whilst the information given relative to the bee is of much interest, we beg our readers to bear in mind the Shanghai fever, and not to count either their chickens or their swarms before they are hatched.

S. K., of Tipton, propounds some very pertinent queries to the stock men and sheep breeders, which we hope they will take up and answer if they can. We want to hear all that can be said upon the subject. S. K. will also note that we publish an article by one of the most distinguished practical experimenters in this very department of the farm, that there is not only in England, but now living, J. B. Lawes, of Rothamsted. He will find in the article some facts worthy of digestion by all farmers, and stockmen.

In answer to an inquiry as to the prices of the Ericsson caloric machines, we learn by a pamphlet sent us that an eight inch cylinder takes up a space of four feet by one foot six inches, and costs \$200; a twelve inch occupies four feet six inches by two feet, and costs \$355; an 18 inch cylinder takes up six feet by three feet six inches, and costs \$550. A 24 inch cylinder costs \$750, and a 32 inch \$1,350. A double 24 inch, which is probably better for use than a 32 inch, costs \$1,400. The testimony in favor of the working of these motor machines is unquestionable, and we hope soon to see some of them in use in this State.

The 1st of March has passed, and Ryan is safe—the wind in the morning was northwards and eastward, with a drizzling rain; in the afternoon it cleared up and the wind shifted round to the westward with a point of south in it. Are we to conclude from this that the early part of the spring will be wet and cold, but that by corn planting time it will be dry, warm and fine, with no late frosts? If this be the signification, and the weather proves true to it, Ryan will be right. But if the spring, however, should be cold and wet, why Ryan foretold it would be so if the wind came from the north on the first of March, and then he will be right also.—Again if the wind on the first of March came from the south and west, the spring was to be fine, early, and warm; and as the wind did blow from that direction, Ryan will be right likewise. We believe we have got the correct hang of the weather this time, and it will be just right when it comes.

It will be noted by our report of the markets that the prospects of wool are not encouraging, just at present, but there is not any good reason to believe that the depression existing now will be of long duration. The live stock market is more unpromising than even the wool. In spite of a decreased supply, the market in New York shows a decline rather than an advance.—The lent season, in such a large city will of

course affect the consumption of meat somewhat.

The city of Indianapolis by the vote of its citizens has determined to provide grounds which shall be used permanently for the exhibitions of the State Agricultural Society, and for this purpose a tax of \$5,000 has been ordered to be levied.

Wells' Commercial Express notices that some Wisconsin club wheat has been shown at the rooms of the Board of Trade in Chicago, which weighs 68 pounds to the measured bushel.

County Societies.

The St. Joseph county Agricultural Society held its annual meeting at Centerville on the 6th instant, and after amending its constitution and accepting the annual reports of its officers, the following officers were chosen for 1860. President, Jeremiah H. Gardner; Secretary, W. G. Woodworth; and Treasurer, Henry C. Campbell.

The directors are—Thomas W. Glass, of Constantine; Charles Betts, of Burr Oak; Wm. M. Watkins, of Leonidas; Richard Dougherty, of Park; H. Tracy, of Sturgis.

The Jackson County Agricultural Society held its annual meeting on the 11th of February, for the transaction of the usual business, preparatory to the next annual fair.—The annual financial statement was submitted, showing the Society to be in a flourishing condition. Daniel Upton resigned his office of Secretary, and the following appointments were made: H. C. Mead, Corresponding Secretary; W. Budington, Recording Secretary; and E. J. Connable and S. O. Knapp were added to the business committee; also, the Judges for the next annual fair were elected.

Produce Markets.

There is very little change to note in the market the present week. Business of all kinds remains dormant, and without life of any kind, and we note the same quietness prevail to a very large extent in the eastern markets. The state of the European markets is not promising, and it now seems as though there were not any hopes that produce could attain better prices than now rule. The London Mark Lane *Express* noticing the condition of the supply says: "In London, with a stock of foreign about 80,000 qrs. beyond this time last year, say about 310,000 qrs., and 900,000 qrs. more throughout the kingdom, millers are not eager buyers. And this is, perhaps, the more so, as the mild weather may produce earlier shipments from the Baltic than was once expected. Whatever opinions, therefore, prevail, neither the general quality of the English wheat, nor the prices demanded for good foreign here or abroad, are tempting to speculators. Foreign markets in the Baltic have been influenced by the prevailing apathy, but in France, the near countries, and Odessa, very little change has taken place. From America there have also been fuller reports. The shipments of flour lately arrived from New York leave no margin to encourage imports, and as prime Kentucky wheat is quoted to \$1.55 per bushel, which, at 63 lbs. per bushel, equals 45s 3d per quarter, free on board, it is clearly out of range for the London market."

It will thus be seen that, with the opening of navigation, there is more likely to be a decline than an advance in prices, as the supplies at the east are now large, and not likely to be much diminished by that time. Of the supply of wheat in the State, there are various and conflicting accounts. Very many argue that it is nearly all shipped or sold, but this is not probable. From what we can learn there is an average on hand of about one-third or one-fourth of the crop of last year.

Congress for the Week

The Senate has before it a bill to prohibit the circulation of banknotes from abroad in the district of Columbia. We presume this bill is intended to check in some degree the buying up of the members' pay in advance, which gives the brokers the benefit of obtaining gold from the public Treasury, and of forcing into circulation notes of banks that again have to be bought at a discount. The movement is a good one, but it will be dodged.

The President has sent to Congress memorials from the citizens of the Pike's Peak territory, asking that Congress will provide for the extinguishment of the Indian title to the lands, and for a territorial government for a territory to be formed out of parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, and New Mexico.

The House Committee on the Post office have authorized their chairman to report a bill to authorize the Postmaster general to advertise for proposals to carry the overland

mail from such points on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to California as he may designate. The letters to go through in twenty days, and to be carried twice a week. The newspapers to go through in thirty days.

The Democrats have held caucuses lately on the subject of resolutions which would express in some degree what action should be adopted as the line of action of the Senate on the subject of slavery. Only five votes were cast in favor of an immediate slave code. The resolutions adopted were those of Jefferson Davis, which it is said had the approval of all the Senators present, except Mr. Pugh of Ohio, and Mr. Douglass of Illinois.

Mr. Toombs of Georgia delivered his speech on Mr. Brown's resolutions, but in reality on political matters generally on Monday last, in reply to one made by Senator Doolittle of Wisconsin on Friday.

In the House a bill has been acted upon which provides for the printing of the President's message and the accompanying documents, so that they will be ready to be read before the members at the opening of Congress. This is a good measure.

The Mexican Treaty is under debate in the Senate! but it is not at all certain that it will be confirmed.

A bill has been introduced into the House, to allow the members mileage at the rate of twenty cents per mile, the distance from their homes to Washington to be computed by straight or air line. This will reduce the item of mileage almost one third.

On Wednesday Mr. Seward delivered his great speech which has been expected so long. It is yet too soon to say what effect it will have on the political future, as only the telegraph report has as yet been received. From what we learn from that report, however, we have no doubt it will be made a campaign document, and form the basis of the platform on which it is probable he will be sent before the country.

Owing to an error of the clerk, the printer to the House is not yet elected. The election of Mr. Ford being a tie vote, was null and void. The attempt to elect again was fruitless of results.

Literary Notes and News.

The authoress of Adam Bede has a new work ready for publication entitled the "Mill on the Floss."

Mary Howitt writes to the *Critic* to contradict the statement that she has embraced Swedenborgianism.

We naturally tire of words as much used as "boys" and "girls," and it may "vary the sauce" a little to use the Japanese designations of the same commodities. A boy is called a *moscoe*, a girl a *mosemay*, a man an *otoko* and a woman an *anago*. Every handsome woman, or belle, is called an *epiyoka*.

Alexander Dumas the celebrated French novelist is at present in Italy, gathering materials for a life of Garibaldi, Monte Cristo will be a dull book to the new autobiography of its renowned author.

The article, "Is the Religious Want of the Age Met?" in the March number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, is from the pen of James William Kimball, Esq., of Boston, the author of a book entitled "Heaven," issued from the press of Messrs. Gould & Lincoln, some two years since.

The *Ypsilanti Herald* comes forth from the ashes brighter and handsomer than ever, on the third week after its suspension on account of the fire. S. B. McCracken is the proprietor, and L. D. Norris edits the political department.

Henry S. Randall, the biographer of Jefferson, is preparing a history of the State of New York, for which very valuable private papers have been afforded to him from every part of the State.

Four hundred and sixty English clergymen have signed a petition, presented by Lord Ebury, asking for a commission to revise the Book of Common Prayer. On the other hand, the clerical declaration against the proposed revision has already received between six and seven thousand signatures.

Leonard Scott's republication of Blackwood for February has been received. The contents this month are, "Norman Sinclair," continued. The poetical description of the great statesmen of England is continued under the head of "St. Stephens." The Luck of Lady'smede, increases in interest, and the review of Lord Dundonald's memoirs, Fleets and Navies, the visit to Vancouver Island, and France and Central Italy are articles both entertaining and instructive.

Foreign Events.

A caravan of pilgrims to the Holy Land is announced to leave Marseilles on the 18th of March. They are to pass the whole of Passion Week and the Easter festivals at Jerusalem, and, after visiting all the remarkable places mentioned in Holy Writ, will embark at Beyrouat for France.

The beautiful estate of M. de Lamartine at Monceau was advertised to be sold in Paris on the 7th of last month.

No less than 107 pamphlets have appeared on the Papal Question, a new one appears every day at Dentu's, the publisher of pamphlets. If Louis Napoleon does not speedily decide this question, the price of paper will quadruple in value except to trunk-makers and pastry-cooks, who hail with boisterous delight the appearance of every pamphlet.

Arthur Hayter, son of A. W. Hayter, has recently been appointed organist of St. Paul's Co-

vent Garden, London. This old and honorable place was obtained after competition with fifty candidates, and is probably the first instance in which an American has received such an appointment; but his ability, as his master, Mr. Hopkins, of the temple church, says, "could not be denied."

A great crisis is expected in the East; Turkey is swarming with secret societies, and the moment Russia gives the signal, they will rise and overthrow the Ottoman empire. The Greeks were never more actively and secretly engaged in this enterprise than they are at the present moment.—France as well as Russia favors them.

The Viceroy of Egypt has sent Mr. Rarey, now in Paris, an offer of five blooded horses, as good as can be bought in Egypt and Arabia, if he will go to Cairo and give instructions in his art of horse-taming.

The Pope's trusted advisers—his "kitchen cabinet"—are Prince von Hohenlohe, a German, my Lord Talbot, an Englishman, my Lord de Me-rode, a Belgian, and my Lord Boromes, an Italian; these four persons exert the greatest influence over the Pope.

The Emperor of Austria has, according to the *Weekly Register*, sent to the Pope a gift in money equivalent to £6,000 sterling. Queen Christina has also been liberal with her purse; and the King of Bavaria promises several thousand volunteers, ready armed and equipped.

The Venetians are beginning to refuse to let lodgings to Austrian officers. The proprietors of taverns and coffee houses also display extreme coldness to the Austrian troops, and one or two of them have recently requested the officers not to frequent their establishments, "as they, by their presence, drive away all other customers."

The sudden change in the commercial policy of France, decreed and already carried into operation by the Emperor, has been met with some opposition. The system has not yet been received as a perfection. The *Parisian correspondent* of the *Cincinnati Gazette* writes:

"Deprived of that impenetrable shield which has so long protected them from foreign competition and enabled them to establish a complete and enriching monopoly at the expense of the whole people of France, the 'manufacturing interests' are up in arms with exclamations of ruin and despair. Deputations from the chief seats of trade have come to Paris and been received by the Emperor, listened to and argued with. To convince men, however, against what they are firmly convinced in their interest, is no easy task, and therefore these despairing gentlemen have probably returned to their homes, persuaded only of one thing—that the Emperor's mind is made up, and that 'what must be shall be.' What in France is apt to become a more formidable element of opposition is the excitement of the working classes in large towns who are easily persuaded by their employers that all is going wrong. Ouvriers' deputations have in consequence waited on the maires of Lille, Rouen, &c., to protest against the ap-proaching measures. A very strongly worded address has been presented by the principal manufacturers of Rouen, to the Emperor, showing how he has not kept faith with them and how they are going to perdition."

In the south and centre of France, however, quite another sort of spirit is manifested; from Marseilles, Havre, and other ports, and from all the more purely agricultural districts, expressions of warm adhesion to the imperial policy arrive daily."

The Italian question still occupies the public attention, and even the British parliament. But after the explanation given by Lord John Russell, little more speculation exists. He showed that the English government, while holding firmly to its engagements with Austria, had yet submitted propositions that permitted Central Italy a fair opportunity to either establish an independent government, or unite itself with Sardinia and thus form a strong and imposing kingdom, with a liberal constitution, in Northern Italy. These recommendations have been so far carried out, and the measures for annexation are supposed to be already in progress. We may therefore soon expect to hear from Italy as having really extended liberal institutions on a grand scale.

The chief exciting public question now, seems to be the letters which the Pope and Louis Napoleon are fulminating at each other, as expressive of their views on the subject of dismembering the States of the Church, and giving a large portion of them liberty to establish a civil government more to their liking than that of his Holiness Pius the Ninth. It is evident that revolution will be permitted everywhere except in Rome, in possession of which the French troops maintain the Pope with wonderful quiet, and with a firmness that he himself could not secure.

The Canadian parliament met on the 28th ult. The Governor General announced that a reply had been received from the Queen to the invitation extended by the parliament, and that the Prince of Wales will visit Canada during the summer.—This will be a great event for Canada and the Canadians.

There seems to be a general impression that Austria and Sardinia will again come to blows, and that certain concessions made by the Emperor of Austria to the Hungarian Protestants indicate that he will temporize with that people that he may avail himself of the strength of that part of his empire to keep what remains of Italy to him; and also to prevent the consolidation of the strong government in Central Italy under Victor Emmanuel. A report is prevalent that Kossuth has left London and will reappear in Hungary, but this is not yet probable. The crisis of Italian independence is not yet passed; it is foretold by many that the war will reopen in the spring, with Naples and the Pope on one side of Sardinia and Austria on the other.

The condition of Venetia is deplorable.—Trains are constantly leaving with political prisoners to be confined in the fortresses of Moravia and Hungary. Arrests of Italians are very numerous, and the whole province is in a state of siege.

The budget brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer, does not seem to be very satisfactory, the expenditures for the year 1859 being stated at seventy millions of pounds sterling, whilst the

income only foots up sixty millions. The deficiency is to be in part made up by an increase of the income tax, and from other sources, that will be felt rather burdensome by the English people. Public attention has been waiting for this exposition with some anxiety, but it had not been much under discussion at the sailing of the last steamer.

Tetuan has been taken by the Spaniards, after a battle which was fought on the 4th of February. The loss of the Spaniards in the battle is reported as very considerable. Eight hundred large tents, forming the fine encampment of the enemy, the artillery, camels and all the other equipage of the Moorish army, have been taken. The brothers of the Emperor took to flight.

A summons having been transmitted to the enemy to surrender Tetuan within twenty-four hours, a deputation from the city came into the Spanish camp to beg for mercy, as the Mussulmen had begun to pillage and slaughter in the town.

Political Notes of the Week.

The Hon. H. W. Davis, of Maryland, having rebuked the Maryland Legislature for their vote of censure, his colleague, Mr. Stewart, has undertaken its defence.

The Republicans of Indiana have held their state convention and nominated Henry S. Lane for Governor. Mr. Lane was president of the convention that nominated John C. Fremont at Philadelphia, in 1856. Judge O. P. Morton was nominated for Lieutenant Governor; W. A. Peale, Secretary of State; J. S. Harvey, Treasurer; Albert Sage, Auditor; J. G. Jones, Attorney General.

We note that the citizens of Charleston, S. C., are making preparation for the visitors expected in that city during the convention.

The opposition party in Pennsylvania have held their state convention and nominated David Wilmot, of the famous Wilmot proviso, Thaddeus Stevens, A. H. Reeder, and others, delegates to Chicago. The convention endorsed Simon Cameron as its candidate for the Presidency, and has sent his warmest and most active friends there to advocate and sustain his nomination.

The Democratic convention of Wisconsin have endorsed Senator Douglas as the candidate of that State at Charleston, and have instructed the delegates to vote for him unanimously. Governor Barstow and John R. Sharpstein are amongst the delegates nominated. The nomination of Mr. Douglas does not seem by any means to be a foregone conclusion. Washington reports indicate that Vice President Breckenridge, of Kentucky, will be a strong opponent, and the administration papers are very outspoken in affirming that the strength of Mr. Douglas is over estimated, and place the number of votes he may get on the first ballot as not over 80 or 90. We feel very sure he will do much better than that, but do not anticipate from appearances that his nomination is certain. The *Washington Star* indicates that much of the strength of Douglas lies in the telegraph dispatches, which certainly are used in his favor with much apparent effect; but, after all, it is the "still sow that sucks the swill," and his opponents in the democratic ranks, though not as yet united, are both very numerous and very powerful, and come from the States where the democratic vote is a certainty. On the contrary, much of the strength of Mr. Douglas comes from States which have been recently lost to the Democrats, and in a great measure by the adoption of measures in which he exerted an active influence. This has made him many silent but active and influential opponents, whose influence will not be felt until the votes are canvassed at Charleston. At the same time, in these very States, there has been awakened an enthusiasm for him that is working strongly in his favor, and will undoubtedly have a great effect on public opinion; but enthusiasm will not count for much in Charleston. Had the convention been held at any more northern city, the popular feeling of the northwest would prove a much more available source of strength than it possibly can be at a city so far removed from it, and surrounded by States where that influence is rather repressed than allowed to have its full swing. Hence we say that the nomination of Mr. Douglas, though possibly the most active and shrewdest of all the candidates, and the most able to deal with mere political men and influences, is not to be considered at all certain, judging from the present signs of the times.

Governor Sam Houston, of Texas, has sent a communication to the President relative to matters on the Mexican frontier, and intimating that there is no security for peace without establishing a sort of protectorate power over the Mexican provinces adjoining that State.

The Governor of Alabama did not approve of the bill providing for a convention to consider the necessity of a southern confederacy. The Legislature has adjourned.

A comparative table of the elections in the towns of New York, show, up to this time, that there were but 141 towns Republican, and all other parties 80, in 1853; in 1860 the Republican towns are 168, and all others 71.

The Republican candidate for Governor in Pennsylvania is Andrew G. Curtin; he was Secretary of State under Gov. Pollock, three years ago. He is said to be nominated with special reference to his efficiency as a public debater.

The Democratic convention of Delaware have expressed their preference for Senator Bayard as a candidate for the presidency.

The National Republican Committee has had under consideration the propriety of changing the time for holding the Chicago convention to an earlier day, and have decided that it shall be held on the 16th of May, instead of the 13th of June. This makes the nomination of that party for President and Vice President come off a month earlier than at first designed. The times are auspicious for the politicians.

The Baltimore convention to nominate delegates to the Maryland democratic convention, was largely in favor of Douglas, for whom much enthusiasm was manifested.

The proposition to make an effort to purchase Cuba will not be entertained by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Col. Lee, who is in command of the military department of Texas, has been ordered to pursue and capture Cortinas and his band, whether in

Mexican territory or out of it. This is unquestionably the best way to preserve the peace of the border. Neither the Miramon nor the Juarez party seem to have the power to keep the peace there, and there is no good reason why American citizens should suffer from the impotence of the Mexicans. Orders of a like kind have also been sent to Capt. Walker, the commandant at El Paso, to march his force into Chihuahua when applied to by residents of that province.

Horace White, assistant secretary of the National Kansas Committee, has been before the Harper's Ferry committee of the Senate; but his testimony has not implicated that body or its members in the John Brown raid.

The Minnesota State Republican convention has been held and delegates appointed to Chicago. Resolutions were adopted expressing a preference for Mr. Seward as the presidential candidate.

Governor Medary, of Kansas, has vetoed the bill passed by the Territorial Legislature of that State, prohibiting slavery in the Territory. It is thought the bill will be again passed over his veto.

Abner Pratt, consul at Honolulu, having obtained leave of absence, will visit his home at Marshall during the present spring. Mrs. Pratt will return with him.

The Vermont democratic convention have chosen delegates in favor of Douglas, to go to Charleston.

Senator Pearce, of Maryland, has again been nominated by the democrats in the Legislature, for re-election to the Senate of the United States.

The Republican State convention of Wisconsin have passed resolutions instructing its delegates to sustain Mr. Seward at Chicago, and have sent delegates there who are in favor of his nomination.

The Mexican treaty does not seem to meet with much favor in the Senate. The Senator from Texas is strongly opposed to it.

General News.

The United States District Court has been busy with the indictments against counterfeiters for the past two weeks. One of them, a young man named Guffen, of Ohio, who has allowed himself to be drawn into the gang, made confession of his connection with the criminals, and has excited much sympathy. His mother is a respectable woman, who resides in Ohio. She was ignorant of her son's position till informed of it, when she came on to be with him during his trial.

It is supposed that the brother of the Rev. Stephen Balmer, of the Scotch Church in Detroit, was on board the Hungarian. The Hungarian is reported to have had 53 passengers; amongst them four members of the Canadian Parliament; and a very valuable cargo of goods.

The Navajo Indians are reported to have attacked a party of United States troops in New Mexico, and killed four of them. It is thought it will be necessary to chastize them severely.

Bonner of the *Ledger* and Roys the newsman of this city, who has been his agent for a number of years, have quarreled.

The American residents at Hamilton, C. W., celebrated Washington's birth day by a dinner and ball.

The formation of a Western New York State Agricultural Society, is being canvassed in the papers of that section of the Empire State.

A German Astronomer named Schwabe, is of the opinion that certain furrow like streaks observed on the moon, are caused by vegetation, as they appear and disappear according to the season.

The steamship communication between Grand Haven and Milwaukee, which has been in part suspended for the season, is to be reopened next week.

A good authority names Melbourne, Bucaenore, and Umpro as the three year olds of the year that stand first for the great Derby stakes.

The farmers of Wisconsin are insisting upon the propriety of having a dog law to protect them from the loss inflicted upon their sheep.

The sudden melting of the snow raised the water in the Huron, so that some of the bridges near Ypsilanti have been weakened by it.

The *Saginaw Courier* says there may be from ninety to one hundred and ten million of feet of logs run to the mills on the Saginaw river this season.

The Cornua folks are enjoying hopes that the swindling broker, who wrote such saucy letters to them, will be arrested. Officers are said to be on his track.

Six hundred shoemakers of Haverhill have struck, and the strikers at Lynn, Marblehead, Natick and other places continue quiet, but firm in refusing to work at the old rates. No manifestation has been given by the employers that the terms asked will be complied with.

The journeymen shoemakers of Detroit have signified to their brethren in Massachusetts, their willingness to aid them, in case such aid is needed.

The New York bank statement for the week shows an increase in loans, deposits and specie, and a decrease in circulation. This may be considered a favorable show.

The Rev. Channing A. Goodrich, Professor of Pastoral Theology at Yale College, died at New Haven on Saturday last.

The Hudson river is almost open between Albany and New York.

A riot got up to lynch a man charged with an odious transgression of the law, was prevented at Louisville, Kentucky, by the calling out of the military.

The loss of the Hungarian seems to be total. It is not yet known how many passengers she had on board; but all on board seems to have perished. This shipwreck is one of the most disastrous known. The goods which formed the cargo are strewn along the coast from Tusket Island around Cape Sable as far east as Ragged Island.

The expedition to examine the country of Arizona, north of the Gila river, report very favorably, stating that it is well wooded and watered, and possesses much mineral wealth.

Two ladies, the wife and daughter of the clerk in the Post Office at St. Johns, Newfoundland, have been imprisoned on the charge of taking letters from the mail and robbing them.

The brother of the Hon. Mr. Keitt of South Carolina, has been murdered by his slaves, his head being severed from his body.

A young lady named Jennie L. Dugan of Delphi, Indiana, was burned beyond hope of recovery by the breaking of a spirit lamp. Her father was severely injured trying to rescue her.

The tavern and barn known as the Green Mountain House, about half a mile east of Farmington was destroyed by fire on last Saturday evening. It is supposed to have been set on fire by some incendiary. Mr. Murray, the proprietor is a strong temperance leader. There was an insurance of \$8,000.

E. T. Sherlock of Detroit, has opened theatres at Grand Rapids, at Detroit, and at Cleveland.

A bill to provide for the removal of the remains of General Jackson and wife from the Hermitage to Nashville, is before the Tennessee Legislature. The design is to erect a monument over them at the capital square.

The Household.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."—PROVERBS.

EDITED BY MRS. L. B. ADAMS.

THE FALLEN OAK.

Matured in storms, the haughty Oak
Long braving every blast,
Is pale by the lightning's stroke,
Decays, and falls at last.

Long hast thou reigned, the forest sire,
Oft heard the warriors' whoop,
And thousands who thy form admire,
Will grieve to see thee drop.

Right nobly was the storm defied,
Naught but the lightning's power
Could thus subdue thy strength and pride,
And blight thee in an hour.

Fearless and bravely hast thou striven,
There's grandeur in thy fall;
The echoes through the forest driven
Proclaim its monarch's fall.

Old Oak, I venerate thy stump,
And, fallen as thou art,
Thy lifeless, withered trunk
Instruction may impart.

Then let the Oak my emblem be,
In every forest seen,
The type of Truth and dignity,
In its primeval green.

W. S. C.

Trenton, Mich.

A Tale of Two Chickens.

(NOT COPIED FROM DICKENS.)

On a cold day in September, many years ago, my next door neighbor came into my house holding her two hands much as if she had a large apple between them and was trying to hide it from my view.

"I have a present for you," she said; and at the same moment I heard the low plaintive "peep" of a half drowned chicken.

Opening her hands over my lap, she dropped into my apron two tiny chicks looking as if they had but just been emancipated from the shell.

"Poor little orphans," she said; "their mother has cruelly deserted them. She seems quite disgusted at this small result of her three weeks' effort on thirteen eggs, and refuses to either cluck or scratch, or in any way acknowledge the responsibility she has incurred. I picked the little foundlings up out of the wet grass and would adopt them myself, but you know every corner at my fireside is already occupied, while you are without a chick or child in the world. Will you be mother to the motherless?"

That was the way I came by my two little pets; little enough they were then, and had to be very tenderly handled, and covered with wool in a small basket set in the chimney corner at night. We had fire-places in those days. By careful nursing and generous feeding the chickens grew rapidly. They were very tame, and in a short time learned to sit on my finger to be held up to the window to catch flies, and would put their little black heads up under my hair, making a sleepy chirping noise as if going to sleep under their mother's wing. As they increased in size and feathers, it became apparent that I had not "a pair," but that both were of the same kind—the masculine gender—in short, both roosters. We had two apprentices boarding with us, young boys full of play, who were sure to have the chickens in their hands or on their heads the moment they entered the house. It was they who gave names to the birds, and who first discovered that one of them was what they called "creepy," that is, short legged. This awkward, waddling one, with inch-long legs and feathers down to his toes, they took a fancy to call Methusalem, as they said he had such ancient ways and looked so profoundly wise. The other, a long-legged, long-necked, high-stepping bird, who learned to crow very young, they named Peter. By these names the birds would go wherever called, as promptly as any child, and much more so than some children I have known.

Before spring we moved to another part of the town, taking the chickens with us, but not the boys. I had few family cares then, and seeing how tractable the two pets appeared, I amused myself by devoting some time to their education. I found a great difference in their intellectual capacities. Peter was a bright, wide-awake, intelligent fellow, ready and willing to learn anything that a feathered biped like him could be expected to learn, while Methusalem, with all his steady ways and wise looks, was quite as dull and stupid as many wise-looking bipeds without feathers are. He followed Peter like his shadow, though often he would have to urge his short legs to a waddling run in order to keep up with that stately stride. While the weather was cold they took regular walks, morning and afternoon, on the cap-board of the yard and garden fence, Peter leading the way and Methusalem following the whole round, till coming to the point nearest the door they

would jump down, Peter crowing for admittance, and then both stalking up to the fire would lay themselves down broadside and stretch out their feet to warm. They had none of the rambling, scratching habits of chickens brought up in the ordinary way.—Peter was a splendid crower. He had a voice like a clarion, shrill, ringing and clear, and I taught him to use it to some purpose. He was not long in learning that if he wanted a favor he must ask for it. He crowed to be let out of the house, or to be let in; he crowed regularly for his meals, as soon as we rose from the table, morning, noon and night, and was always grateful enough to give a hearty crow of thanks when he had eaten what he wanted. Methusalem tried to follow suit in this as well as in all other things, but the poor little fellow had an impediment in his speech which made his attempts to imitate his lordly brother the most ludicrous burlesques imaginable. At such times Peter would look down upon him with a low sympathizing chuckle, as much as to say,

"You did your best, poor dumpy; but now, listen to me!" and there would peal out such a clear, ringing "Cock-a-doodle-doo," as would startle the echoes in every corner of the house; and then, while he walked around the room in triumph, Matty as I always called the "creeper," would waddle after him, evidently as proud as if he had made all the noise himself, though he was never able to get out one decent crow in the whole course of his life.

Peter had an idea that if he crowed for anything, he had earned the right to do as he pleased with it, and if by any chance he was caught in mischief, a short, cackling confession and a loud crow would, in his opinion, set all right again. One morning I baked some pies and set them on a table in the back kitchen to cool; I then went out to the garden and spent an hour or so weeding my flower-beds. The kitchen door was left open, as it was a warm spring day, and when I returned, the first thing I saw was Peter standing in the middle of one of my pies, stuffing himself to his heart's content.

"Coo-da-cut!" said he, looking up at me as I paused on the door-step gazing at him in utter astonishment.

"Why, Peter! how dare you meddle with my pies?" I exclaimed.

"Da-cut! Da-cut!" he muttered, deliberately wiping his bill on the edge of the pie-tin; then stepping forward to the end of the table facing me, he flapped his wings, gave a tremendous "Cock-a-doodle-doo-o-o-a-u" as long drawn out as his breath would last, and quietly walked back to his feast again, fully assured that he had a right to all the pie he wanted!

One day I heard his loud "Coo-da-cut" in the wood shed, and going out to see what he was at, I found him standing sentry over an old horse-blanket which had lain folded up in a corner for some weeks.

"What is it, Peter?" I asked.

"Cock-a doodle-doo!" said he, and at once commenced tearing away at the blanket with his bill.

Presently out flew an immense yellow-backed "bumble bee," who, as I found, had made a comfortable nest in the folds. The bee buzzed away out of Peter's reach, while he stood crowing with all his might, in the vain hope of fetching him down again. Matty, meanwhile, stood by chuckling with great satisfaction at his brother's bravery.

Peter delighted to follow me about the garden, and in long summer walks through the woods. I was no more afraid of losing him than if he had been a dog. No matter where he was, or what he was doing, if he heard me call, "Peter," he would run with all the speed of his long legs and strong wings put together. Matty did not like rambling much; his body was very clumsy and heavy, and his legs too short to make long walks agreeable, so he usually sat on the door-step and waited for our return.

I might relate many interesting anecdotes of these birds; we had them with us three years; but I have said enough for the present, though I cannot close without adverting to their melancholy end. We gave up the place where we had been living, and went to stay a few weeks at my father's, taking Peter and Matty with us. Neither of them had ever seen any of their kind till now. There were a great many fowls on the old farm, and the moment Peter was put down among them he screamed a loud "Coo-da-cut!" of defiance, then uttering a most terrific "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" as a signal for hostilities to commence, he went at it at once. He was a powerful bird, with all the vigor and independence of his nature fully roused; his spurs, long, strong, and sharp as needles, made fearful havoc wherever they struck. And it was not upon his own sex and species alone that he made

war; he gave battle to everything that wore feathers, hens, cocks, turkeys and geese alike. Great was the cackling and consternation among the hitherto quiet inhabitants of the old barn-yard. Though it was near sundown when he was let loose among them, he had, before dark, killed one rooster and a hen, made several bloody heads among the geese and laid the old turkey gobbler stark and stiff in the fence corner. Night put an end to the slaughter; but alas for Peter! my bold, brave Peter! He was a martyr to his ill-timed courage and bravery. The rooster he had killed was a pet of one of my young brothers, and to avenge its death, as well as that of the old gobbler, the boy waited till Peter was soundly asleep, dreaming over his victories, when he took him from his coop to the woodpile, chopped off both his spurs close to his legs, then climbing upon the garden fence, set him as high as he could reach among the limbs of a tree, hoping, doubtless, that the owls would carry him off before morning. But poor Peter's hours were numbered. It needed no owl's assistance to bear him beyond that bourne from whence no chancier returns. Either from loss of blood, or from mortification at the loss of his spurs, he fell from his high perch and was found cold and dead beneath the tree in the frosty light of morning!

Poor Matty, who could no more fight than he could crow, wandered around disconsolately for a few days, and then disappeared forever. I think he found it impossible to live without his brother, and so went away by himself and died of pure grief, broken hearted.

Thus ends the true story of Peter and Methusalem.

Great Men of the Bible.

BY SLOW JAMIE.

NUMBER SEVEN.

Melchizedec.—There has been more conjecture about the identity of this personage than almost any other. Some imagine that he was Shem, the son of Noah; others that he was an angel; and others still that he was the Holy Spirit, or the son of God, in human shape. But when the Bible gives an account of a divine apparition it relates it as such; and when it tells a simple story, as a simple story we ought to receive it. The plainest sense of the Bible or of any other book is always the best.

Melchizedec attracts attention because he was a remarkable man himself; because he turned up in a remarkable event in Abraham's life; because David mentions him in one of his most beautiful songs; and principally because a New Testament writer, taking hold of the subject with all the power of his genius, and making his name, title, offices, and work, all typological, rolls the doctrine out of it, in massive ideas, like a magnificent summer cloud.

Melchizedec was a remarkable man. Descended from the mocking Ham, he feared God and regarded man. His very name signifies king of righteousness or a righteous king; and he maintained such good order in his territory, that his city was called Salem, that is, peace and good order. His dominions being small and his talents for business great, he found time to officiate as priest, as well as to discharge the functions of a king. He was king of righteousness, king of peace, and priest of the most High God. In this he was the more praiseworthy, because he did so, not from the persuasion of others, but by the promptings of his own spirit. He had neither father nor mother to instruct him, nor children to encourage him in the way of duty. That he had parents natural is certain, that he had children in the flesh is probable; but his moral character was such, that he might better have had none. He had no spiritual parents or children. The same was probably true of his people. He lived in a corrupt place and age. He must have possessed great weight of character to have maintained his authority in such circumstances.

He is brought to notice in a remarkable passage of Abraham's life. Four marauding princes had come from the interior of Asia, and conquered five cities in the plains of Jordan. For twelve years they had been kept in subjection, but in the thirteenth they made a struggle for their liberty. In this they were unsuccessful. Great numbers were slain in battle, and the rest taken prisoners to be made slaves. Among the latter was Lot. When Abraham, his uncle, heard of it, although he was now an old man, and had always been a peaceful shepherd, he determined to attack the warriors, and rescue his friend. He had three hundred and eighteen servants who were able bodied men and all trained to sword exercise. He armed these, and persuaded three other chieftains to arm their clans and go with him. He attacked the tyrants, scattered their forces, and pur-

sued them a long distance. The prisoners were liberated and no doubt joined in the pursuit. We hear no more about these invaders, they probably made their escape to the east whence they came, and never returned. Abraham returned in triumph, and among those who came out to congratulate him on his return was Melchizedec. He brought bread and wine to refresh his weary followers, and in the character of a priest blessed the patriarch, and accepted from him tithes.—We regard Abraham on this occasion as respectable from his rank, venerable in his age, admirable in his courage and prowess, and revered on account of his moral virtues. Yet here a man meets him as his superior, and is recognised in that superiority. No wonder then that we have a lofty opinion of Melchizedec.

Then the mention made of him in the hundred and tenth Psalm is calculated to deepen the impression. David's songs are all grand in lofty sentiment, but some of them are rich in beauty, and among the beautiful ones, this is eminent. He there represents Jesus Christ after he has ascended into heaven, as addressed by the father and invited to sit on his right hand. A rod is put in his hand by the simple waving of which he rules the world, and subdues his enemies. A willing obedient people is congregated before him. From his lofty eminence he sheds upon them the influence of his spirit, as the dew descends on a garden of flowers, and it has the same beautifying effect. That Melchizedec is mentioned in such a song is enough to shed a lustre upon the name.

And lastly, in the seventh chapter of Hebrews, Paul takes this allusion to Melchizedec for his text, and preaches the glory of Christ. He makes the bare absence of record, significant in the typical application. We have no account of the birth or death of the type, and Paul spiritualizes that, of him, who in his divine character, was from everlasting to everlasting.

Melchizedec as we have seen in all probability belonged to a devoted race, of whose ancestor it was said, "Cursed is Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be," yet wherever the Bible is read, his name calls up as venerable associations as are attached to the name of any created being. This teaches us that it is our own personal moral character, and not our associations or family connection, that must determine our right to the esteem of posterity. Indeed to be well raised is rather our disgrace, when we do not act accordingly.

On the other hand it is a peculiar honor to stand up against any vice when it is fashionable. I once heard of an Indian in the early history of New England, who got up in the night and cutting the cords from a little white boy whom they were going to torture the next day, told him to "run grand." I have heard of a Moor who set his Christian slaves free without ransom. There is also a tradition that an Irish king in pagan times took a notion that it was wrong and foolish to worship a calf. Such instances, if true, remind us of the upright principle of Melchizedec who was a priest of God amongst idolaters.

Speech Without Words.

I'll tell you a story of how I once saved my life, entirely through having once learned the deaf and dumb alphabet:—

"There were two little boys who used to come and stay with Frank and me, when we were first married, and they could neither hear nor speak.

"They were deaf and dumb; they could not talk except with their fingers—so—only ever so much quicker.

"Frank and I learned the foreign alphabet on purpose that we might understand what these poor lads had to say. They were quick and clever; they could read and write, ay, and draw and sew, and do many other things which most boys would make but a very bad hand at.

"They could play at draughts, and backgammon and chess, and at fox and geese, as well as any boys. They could almost see what we said, though they could not hear, with such quick eager eyes did they watch every movement of our lips. We soon, however, got so as to talk as easily with our fingers as with our tongues; and sometimes, when the lads were not with us, Frank and I used to converse in that manner when we were alone, for practice.

"It happened upon one occasion that he had to go to London on important business; he was to have gone by an afternoon train, but something delayed him, so that he was not able to leave before the night express. I was not in very good health, and retired to my bed room about two hours before his departure; he promised, however, to come up

and bid me good bye before he started, which would be between twelve and one o'clock in the morning. The matter which had called him away was connected with the bank here, which had just been burnt down; and my husband, it seems, though I did not know it at the time—so great a secret had he endeavored to keep it—had many thousand pounds belonging to the concern in his temporary possession, locked up in the iron safe in our bedroom, where the plate was kept. He was bank-manager, and responsible for the whole of it. It was winter time, and there was a fire in the room, so bright and comfortable that I was in no hurry to leave it and go into bed, but sat up, looking into the fiery coals, and thinking about all sorts of things; upon the long journey Frank had to take that night, and of how dreary the days would seem until he returned; and particularly how lonely I should feel in that great room all by myself, when he should be away; for I was a dreadful coward. It was a little after eleven o'clock when I got into bed, but I did not feel the least inclined to sleep even then; I knew Frank would be coming to wish me good-bye presently; and besides, there seemed to be all sorts of noises about the room, which my foolish ears always used to hear whenever I was alone at night-time.

"If a little soot fell down the chimney, it was, I thought, a great black crow at least, which would soon be flying about the room, and settling on my pillow; if a mouse squeaked in the wainscot, it was the creaking of some dreadful person's shoes, coming up stairs to kill me with a carving-knife; and if the wind blew at the casement, it was somebody else trying to get in at the window, although it was two stories high. You may imagine, then, my horror when I heard a tremendous sneeze within a quarter of an inch of me, just behind the head-board of the bed, and between that and the wall, where there was a considerable space. I had, as usual, taken the precaution, before I put the candle out, of looking everywhere in the room where it was quite impossible any person could be hid; but in the little alcove into which the bed was pushed I had never so much as thought of looking, although that was a capital hiding place for anybody. Ever since I had slept in that room, in short, I had been like the ostrich, who puts his head in the sand, and then imagines himself in perfect security. I had piqued myself upon precautionary measures that, after all, might just as well have been omitted. The only thing, as I believe, which saved my reason from departing altogether, when I first heard that terrible sound, was that my mind clung to the hope that it might be after all, only the sneeze of a cat. Fifty cats, together, could not have made half such a disturbance, it is true, for it was the sneeze of a man who sneezes in spite of himself, and almost shook the house; but the idea sustained me over the first shock. The next instant the wretch had sneezed again, and pushing aside the bed which rolled on casters, I felt he was standing beside my pillow looking at me. If he had given only one sneeze, he might perhaps have believed me, as I lay quite still, breathing as regularly as I could, and pretending to be asleep; but he reasoned, very justly, that unless I was deaf or dead, I must have been awakened by the second.

"'You're awake, marm,' said he, in a gruff voice, 'and it's no use of shamming! If you don't want a tap with this life-preserver, just look alive.'

"I opened my eyes exceedingly wide at this, and beheld a man with a crape over his face, standing by the bed; he held a sort of club, with two knobs upon it in his right hand, and with his left he pointed to the iron safe. 'Is the money there?' said he.

"'The plate is,' said I, in a tremulous voice; 'pray, take it, sir; I am sure you are very welcome; for he might have everything of value out of the house with all my heart, so long as he left me my life.'

"'The money—the gold—the notes—are they there?' cried he again, in a terrible sort of whisper.

"'It's all there,' replied I, although I knew nothing about it; 'all except fifteen and sixpence in my purse, on the dressing-table yonder. There's a silver mustard pot besides in the pantry, and a couple of candlesticks in the study, only they are plated, for I would not deceive you, sir, upon any account.'

"'You had better not,' observed the burglar grimly, 'or it will be all the worse for you.' He produced a key like that my husband used, and approached the iron safe; but as he did so, his guilty ear caught a footstep upon the staircase.

"'Who's that?' cried he.

"'My husband, sir,' returned I; 'but, pray, don't hurt him; pray.'

"'Is he not gone to town, then,' cried the

ruffian, with an oath of disappointment.

"He is going at twelve o'clock," replied I, "he is, indeed."

"If you tell him," said the burglar, hoarsely; "if you breathe one word of my presence, here, it will be the death-doom of you both; he had slipped into the alcove, and drawn back the bed again to its place in an instant. My husband entered immediately afterward, and even while he was in the room I heard the awful threat repeated once again through the thick curtain behind me. "If you do but whisper it, woman, I will kill you where you lie. Will you swear not to tell him?"

"I will," said I, solemnly; "I promise not to open my lips about the matter."

"Frank leaned over the pillow to kiss me, and observed how terrified I looked.

"You have been frightening yourself about robbers again, I suppose, you silly child."

"Not I, Frank," returned I, as cheerfully as I could; "I have only a little headache; but I said with my fingers, so that he could plainly read it in the fire-light:—'For God's sake, hush! but there's a man behind the bed-head!'"

"Frank was as bold as a lion, and had nerves like iron, although he was so tender-hearted and kind. He only answered, 'Where is your salvolatile, dearest?' and went to the mantle-piece to get it. I thought he never could have understood me, he spoke with such coolness and unconcern, until I saw his fingers reply as he took up the bottle, 'All right, don't be afraid!' And then I was not afraid, or at least not much; for I knew that I should not be left one instant in that room alone; and I felt that my Frank was a match for any two men in such a cause. Only he had no weapon. 'He has a life-preserver,' said I, with my fingers.

"Your fire is getting rather low, Georgey," observed he, as he took up the poker. (Ah, he had a weapon then!) 'I must leave you a good blaze to comfort you before I go.' He poked the fire, and left the poker in, but without ever taking his eyes off me and the bed head. 'I will just ring the bell, and see whether Thomas has got the portmanteau ready. Mary,' continued he to the maid who answered the bell, 'send Thomas up.' 'Then,' when she had gone upon that errand, 'By Jove! I never gave him that key. Where is it, Georgey! I have not a minute to lose. If it is in your dressing-case, with the rest there, I shall be an age looking for it. Might I ask you to get out of the bed for an instant, and show me where it is?' He said with his fingers, 'Jump!' and I jumped, you may be sure, quick enough, and was inside the dressing-room, and with the door locked, in half a second.

"Come in, Thomas," said Frank! 'come in.' For Thomas was modestly hesitating at the chamber door. 'There's some blackguard got into the house and behind my bed there. If he makes the least resistance I'll kill him with this poker.'

"At these words the bed was pushed slowly outward, and the burglar, without his crape mask, and with a face as pale as ashes, emerged from his hiding place. Frank knew him at once as having been a bank messenger who had been turned out of his situation since the fire, on suspicion of dishonesty.

"Oh, sir, have pity on me!" cried he. 'I'm an unlucky dog. If it had not been for a sneeze I should have had ten thousand pounds in my pocket by this time!'

"Oh, you came after that, did you," said my husband coolly. 'Well, please to give up that life-preserver which you have in your pocket before we have any more conversation.

"And did your lady tell you that too?" cried the villain, in accents of astonishment, as he delivered up the weapon to the manservant; and yet I stood by her yonder, and never heard her utter a syllable.

"I never spoke a word," cried I, through the dressing room key hole, for I did not wish the man to think that I had broken my oath, nor, to say truth, was I anxious to make a deadly enemy of him, in case he should be ever at large again.

"Then it's judgment upon me," exclaimed the miserable wretch; 'and it's no good for me to fight against it.'

"It's not the least good," replied Frank, decisively; 'and we will go to the police office at once.'

"So off the burglar went in their custody, leaving me safe and sound after all. And now, don't you think there is some use in learning everything, even so small a thing as the deaf and dumb alphabet?"

Christmas at Farmer May's.

"Joseph!" roared farmer May's stentorian voice outside the kitchen door, where he was knocking the snow off from his great hob-nailed shoes; "Joseph, you, lazy rascal, come and unharness the horse!"

Out of the windy woodshed came Joseph, reluctantly, into the biting Christmas time air. Joseph was farmer May's bound boy, who did the chores, and carried the wee May children, on his back to school many a time. "I don't think he's got any heart at all!" exclaimed Joseph, passionately, as his numb fingers loosed the harness, and a bitter tear stole down each pale cheek. "And this is Christmas time! Oh dear, dear! why didn't God make a beautiful time for me, too?—Work, work, work, and never a kind word!—I ain't good for anything; I never shall help anybody, or do any good as long as I live; and I suppose God knows it. O! I pray every night, that I may help somebody, and then, may-be, I might get them to love me, or drop a kind word once in a while."

Here Joseph paused, and looked over his shoulder into the broad kitchen window. Oh! what a pretty sight there was within; you ought to have seen it. One square patch of sunshine lay right in the middle of the snowy floor. The beams were hung with long strings of scarlet peppers, and queer, crooked-necked yellow squashes; besides, a beautiful branch of the burning bush sprang out over the chimney-piece. The great square table was piled high with golden-colored pumpkins, rosy apples, (just the hue of Tiny May's cheeks, bless her!) and fragrant quinces. And clustering around, "just to see," were little variegated curly-heads you might have mistaken for a bunch of marigolds, their eyes big with anticipation of the dainties in progress. How they laughed and shouted every time Hetty May gave a vigorous chop at the obstinate mince-meat, and sent her curls flying off in a straight line from her head.

"Dear me!" cried mother May, in a flutter, "that Santa Claus tart's burning, I'm sure; and my hands in this dough, too! Joseph, you Joseph! come here, and mind the tarts."

Joseph here, there, everywhere! Why, there wasn't a member of the whole May family but were perfectly convinced that Joseph Craig hadn't a spark of feeling in him. He never hung up his socks; no, indeed!—And, little children, he never had a kind mother to put her soft hand under his chin, and lift his poor, pale face to her loving eyes. There is a beautiful little brook in every one of your hearts, that loves to have kind, smiling faces reflected in it, and pleasant words, like wild flowers, dropped into it. To be sure there is!

This was the day before Christmas; and at night, when the little ones were safe in their beds, farmer May threw a fresh pine knot into the wide-mouthed chimney-place, and Santa Claus began, invisibly, to fill up the four long, red woolen stockings hanging beside it. Good gracious! what a dancing and diddling there was about that kitchen floor the next morning, when the beautiful sun revealed what sly Kris Kringle had been about! Even twelve year-old Hetty danced a polka in a pair of new rubbers and a pretty cherry silk hood, with delight. Thomas' blue-wheeled cart kept tripping everybody up, as he went careering round the room; and Tiny's great waxen doll stared at young and old with its impudent blue eyes. But the greatest general of the day was soldier Harry, with the shining new skates Santa Claus had bequeathed him. Already he was strapping them on, and with his chest proudly swelled, was explaining the buckling to silent, patient Joseph.

"Hurray, Joseph! hurray, everybody! look out of the windows; I'm off to the big pond for a skate."

They were all so proud of handsome, careless Harry. Mother May was dreadfully busy preparing the Christmas dinner—for all the May relatives were to be there—but she left the peeling of the turnips and onions, and with her wet hands behind her, peered out with the rest to see her promising son.

"God bless the boy!" cried out the farmer in his hearty way; and the children's eyes glistened. Joseph's hand was on the window sill, and farmer May's accidentally dropped on to it, gathering the slim fingers into his broad, warm palm. Joseph thought his heart would burst, and a sweet glow of pleasure stole over him. But the hand and pressure were instantaneously removed, and the sunshine faded out of his eyes.

The weather had been unusually mild for two or three days before Christmas, so that the water lay on the ice of the big pond.—But daring Harry thought he could brave it;

't would be a pity to spoil the fun now, and so many admiring eyes fixed on him, too!

He made a bold dash; his little figure, upright and graceful, was poised upon the ice. Then there was a crash! the treacherous ice gave way, and with a loud cry Harry fell amid the rush of ice and water.

The group at the window seemed, for a moment, paralyzed with horror; then there was a scrambling and crying from one and all.

"He's under the water. Father—father—Harry's going under the ice!"

Every particle of color had gone from farmer May's face; he trembled in every limb, and threw up his hands wildly. His strength seem to have ebbed away in the tide of grief. "God help me," he cried. "My boy, my boy—and I can't swim!"

"But I can!" shouted a voice brave and clear as an angel's. "I can swim, and I will save him; and dashing past weeping mother May, Joseph Craig plunged headlong into the freezing water, swimming for dear life.

How they watched him breathless and excited, their hearts hanging by a thread. How they saw him grasp once, twice, at a dark object under the water, and then rise, his face gashed and bleeding from contact with the ugly ice-corners. He was far out now, and made a third dive; then there was a faint hurrah, and breasting the ice, he swam up with one arm embracing poor Harry.

"My child—my boy. Thank God!" cried the happy parent, folding him in his arms. They bore him to the roaring fire in the sitting room, and rubbed him until he opened his eyes and smiled. Pretty soon he was able to sit up, and laugh and talk naturally.

And where was Joseph all this time? Sitting on the kitchen floor, squeezing his wet clothes and rubbing the great painful gashes in his arms, from which the blood was still streaming.

"Joseph." He listened; it was farmer May's voice, unusually soft and tender. The bound boy shook like a leaf. Before he was aware, a strong arm came around behind him, lifting him from the floor. He found himself as if by magic sitting beside Harry, and Harry's bright head resting on his bosom, with great tears rolling down the grateful boy's cheeks.

"If there's anything you could wish for now, Joseph," said the farmer, huskily, "anything you'd like to have, just name it, my boy. You've saved us many a year of sorrow, and given us cause to remember this Christmas before all others. Come speak out, my boy!"

How could he speak and be so happy?—Twice he assayed to gulp down the sobs rising in his throat; sobs of joy they were. "Only be kind to me, sir!" he gasped out at last; "only drop a kind word now and then, for I can't say any more like the rest!"

How was it with farmer May?—he was conscious of a great lack in his otherwise kindly heart. It quite broke him down—that appeal to his better nature; so he leaned on mother May's shoulder, and sobbed aloud.—Joseph sat in a dream; his beautiful Christmas had come at last. No more hunger and thirsting of spirit now. How the joyous red spikes of firelight ran up the white wall, the whole room shining! Harry squeezing him tightly, with one arm, and Tiny, her cheeks flushed with crying, thrusting her pretty doll into his lap, whispering—

"There! there! keep it, Joseph; I don't want it; indeed and double-deed I don't!"

And then, running away in the corner, her face turned to the wall, lest by looking back she might repent the immense sacrifice.—Well, well, children, tears cannot always last; and the May family were soon bright and smiling again, Joseph the happiest of all.—Why, I don't believe Kris Kringle, even, with his merry, frosty old face, looked more shining than the bound boy.

There was a great Christmas dinner, you must know, with all sorts of good things.—Mother May couldn't heap Joseph's plate high enough with sweetmeats, and every one at the table drank his health in a brimming goblet of egg-nog. Oh! Oh! it was all fairy-land, and his cheeks kept tingling with proud bashfulness all the time.

Farmer May gave Joseph his freedom, and sent him to school along with Harry. He had good reason to be proud of him, too, for there never was a better or more studious boy.

So you see, little children, that God never neglects even the humblest. He held little Joseph in the hollow of his hand, and put him on the road to happiness.

Many a blessed Christmas has farmer May had since then, and, may be, if you could look in upon them now, you might see them all seated around one of mother May's plum puddings, farmer May in the middle, rosy and smiling, handsome Harry on one side, growing up to a noble manhood; and Joseph Craig on the other, with the promise of good in his sunny blue eyes. All these thanking God for this happy Christmas.

For Our Young Friends.

To the Boys.

MR. JOHNSTONE.—I have read your paper, more or less, every week, since it has been printed in a weekly form, and intend to read it much more. In all that I have read in the FARMER, I never have read a piece written by a boy.

Now I have been wondering (as boys do wonder) why it would not be a good plan, to have one column devoted to the interest of the boys, for them to write letters, and have them printed in that column.

I have thought of writing a great many times, but never before have I been bold enough to write sign my name, seal, and direct a letter to an editor.

I think after the boys see the first letter printed, you, or we, will have no trouble in getting letters enough to keep our column well filled.

Receipt for our column.—A good supply of letters, seasoned well with poetry, enigmas, charades, &c.

I think I have written enough to introduce the subject; and this being the first, will close by wishing the boys would take an interest, and write letters as well as enigmas.

Very truly yours, H. M. EVANS.

Moreno, Feb. 1860.

[We cheerfully give place to the above letter, and assure the boys that they shall be made welcome to all the room they will make profitable use of in the Household.]

Enigma.

In me a mineral sort is named,
Whose powers to heal are truly famed;
In me you find the thing intended
To keep the ship's canvass well extended.

An antiquated ship you find in me,
And what is a synonym of equality;
A small venomous serpent, and a blow
Perchance might lay his snakeship low.

I name the grounds where for pleasure you rove,
And am to the ladies an object of love;
In a word of five letters rightly combined,
These eight different meanings you will find.
Plymouth, March, 1860. J. W. E.

Miscellaneous Enigma.

I am composed of 20 letters.
My 8, 4, 17, 6, 11, 1, 19, is a celebrated city in Italy.
My 15, 10, 28, 16, 9, 2, 14, 10, was a daring corsair of Algiers.
My 12, 13, 1, 19, 17, 4, was an orator and statesman of ancient Rome.
My 10, 7, 15, 13, 5, was an English painter and ornithologist.
My 14, 16, 3, 18, 11, 6, is a river of Arkansas.
My 1, 4, 7, 19, was an American landscape painter.
My 18, 6, 20, 3, 13, 5, is the capital of a kingdom in Europe.
My whole was a distinguished officer of the revolutionary army; he was killed by the falling of a tree.
S. J., Greenfield.

Answers to Enigmas of last week.—Female painter, ROSA BONHEUR; American author, JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

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